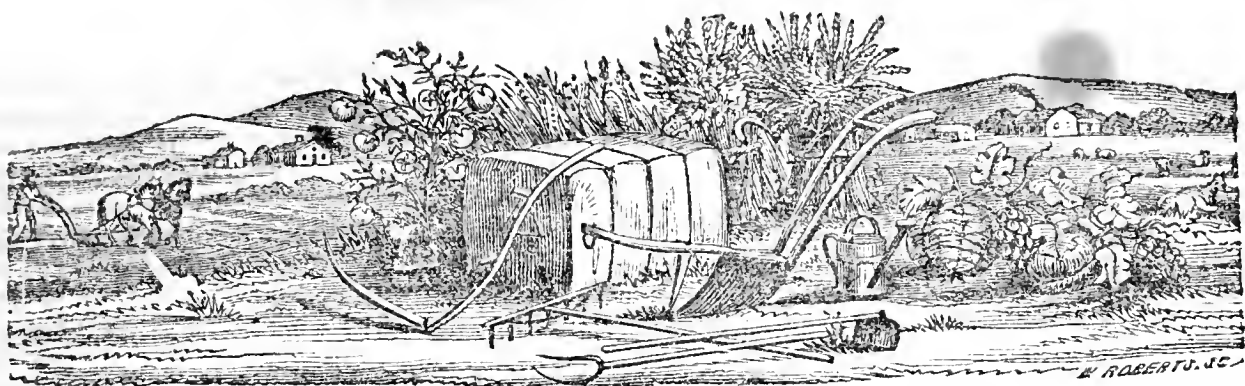


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. IX. PENDLETON, S. C., SEPTEMBER, 1858. No. IX.

The Farmer and Planter,

ISSUED MONTHLY AT PENDLETON, SO. CA., BY

GEORGE SEABORN,

Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS:

1 copy, one year (invariably in advance)	\$1 00.
6 copies one year	5 00.
25 copies one year	20 00.
100 copies one year	75 00.

Advertisements will be inserted at the rates of seventy-five cents a square, (twelve lines or less,) for the first insertion, and fifty cents for each subsequent one.

Liberal deductions will be made to liberal advertisers.

The postage on the Farmer and Planter is, anywhere in the State, three-fourths of a cent, and out of the State one cent and a half per quarter.

From the Southern Cultivator.

Animal Force and how to Maintain it.

Farmers and planters who have to maintain the daily strength of many laboring persons and animals ought to be well informed in all that relates to muscular power and action.—Every machine or body is moved by the exertion of animal force, or by the application of the powers of nature. Of the latter, heat and gravitation are the most conspicuous; as when heat causes immense quantities of water to rise in an invisible form from the ocean, and all other moist surfaces, in to the atmosphere, which, being condensed, forms clouds, rains, creeks and rivers, and all the water power in the world. Were the action of heat and gravitation limited to the surface of the globe and the atmosphere, falling water would soon (in a geological sense) remove all islands and continents into the depths of the vast mass of sea which now covers over three-fourths of our planet; for every river and smaller stream ev-

er carries with it, in the shape of mud, a part of the solid substance of the dryland above the ocean. There is about water enough to cover every part of the earth to the depth of nearly ten thousand feet, did not the force of internal heat, as developed in volcanic action, cause the upheaval of islands and continents above the level of the sea. All animal force is most intimately connected with what is denominated animal heat; which differs little, if any, from the heat produced by burning wood or coal.

But every animal is an organized machine, and something more than simple fuel is needed to keep it in good order. Every vital force consumes not only fuel or food, but a fraction of the living machine itself, which must be repaired by the prompt assimilation of organized matter adapted to the part to be made whole again. Now, it is the wise adjustment of food to the precise wants of nature in constantly building up the whole animal machine, and keeping it warm, and at the same time generating force, taking proper care not to overwork the machine, that forms the point in agricultural physiology which we aim to make plain to unprofessional readers. If a laboring man or mule were nothing more than an iron steam engine and boiler, it would be less difficult to explain the whole work of the machinery set in motion. In the former, there are both life and the constant waste of every part of the machine itself to be provided for, in addition to the supply of fuel proper with which to generate animal heat. By overlooking this important distinction in reference to animal force, many writers on both food and fuel commit gross errors. In the February number of this journal, on page 54, may be seen a short article on the "The Value of Indian Corn," which is copied from *Hunt's Magazine*, where the reader is sadly misinformed. He is told "that one pound of parched Indian corn, or an equal quantity of corn meal made into bread, is more than equivalent to two pounds of fat meat." If this statement were true, it is clear that the planter, who feeds each servant three or three

and a half pounds of fat bacon a week, worth from 20 to 40 cents, and sometimes 60, might attain every benefit derived from the consumption of this meat by merely allowing his servants a *half pound* of meal more than their usual quantity to each pound of bacon withheld. What man of experience in the matter referred to, does not know that the statement is not true? A pound of meal, worth one cent, equal to two pounds of "fat meat," worth 20 cents!

Our agricultural literature abounds in errors similar to the one we are pointing out in our own paper. The writer of the article is right in what he says as to vegetable oil being equivalent to animal oil; but it is by no means the equivalent to "animal food." In discussing the value of corn meal for animal consumption as compared with fat meat, he should have known that 100 pounds of the best fat bacon yields 80 pounds of fat; and that a like weight of meal gives only 8 pounds of oil. Hence it is seen that 1000 pounds of meal, at 1 cent per pound, will give 80 pounds of oil or fat, just the quantity obtained in 100 pounds of fat dry bacon at 10 cents a pound.

Let us not be understood as meaning that 100 pounds of fat meat are equal to 1000 pounds of corn meal in generating muscular force.—Our object is to account for the general difference in the price of the two articles. It is very difficult to fix the relative value of dry bread and dry meat, whether fat or lean, or a due mixture of both, as food for man. Subsisting mainly on beans and other legumes, with little bread or meat, the Roman soldiers achieved prodigies by the weights they carried, without the aid of the modern invention of baggage wagons, and by their rapid and prolonged marches. Nothing in modern times is believed to equal their performances, except the toilsome labor of the carriers or *cargueros*, who traverse the loftiest mountains in Peru, bearing travelers seated on chairs strapped to their backs. A man carries his own weight either up hill, down hill, or on a level, much easier than he is able to carry any foreign body that approximates his weight. A porter, weighing 140 pounds, was found willing to climb a stair 40 feet high 266 times a day; but he could carry up only 66 loads of fire-wood, each of 163 pounds. In the former case, he lifted very nearly 1,500,000 pounds 1 foot high, or its equivalent for a days work; in the latter case he lifted only 808,000 pounds the same height, including the weight of his body. At Constantinople, an Albanian will carry 800 or 900 pounds on his back, stooping forward and assisting his steps by a sort of staff. Extraordinary efforts of this character can be endured only for a short time. The period of repose and relaxation greatly exceeds that of extra muscular effort. In England, Scotland and some parts of Germany, laboring people perform more work for the food consumed, in the course of a life-time, than in any other part of the world. They are by no means subsisted with an economy equal to their industry. The writer accepts Liebig's view of the value of alcohol in beer, wine, &c., to aid by its combustion, in maintaining animal heat;

but even Liebig will not deny the existence of a serious loss of carbon in the transformation of starch and sugar into alcohol by fermentation. While the beer, so largely consumed in England and Germany, is not wholly devoid of nutrient properties, the barley and other grain consumed in making it, would yield several times more nutriment if made into bread.—When grain is converted into whiskey, the loss is much greater than in the manufacture of beer, so far as generating muscular power is concerned.

Many diseases in man and his domestic animals would be avoided by studying the relations of food and drink to the peculiar requirements of every constitution. Nature has placed at our service a great variety of plants, and has given to no one species a decided superiority over all others, as human food. The English pea and bean have more organized nitrogen adapted to the growth of muscles and other tissues than is found in wheat, rye, corn or other cereal; but they are not equally adapted to form bread, nor do they contain an equal amount of starch. The teeth and digestive organs of man show that he is not an exclusive plant-eating animal, but requires some flesh with his vegetable food. He may, however, subsist wholly on bread, milk, fruit, tubers and roots, although such diet will not develop his highest powers, either physical or mental. By separating a part of the 87½ per cent of water in milk, and by selecting his vegetable food with scientific skill, a duly concentrated bill of fare might be made out without taking the life of any animal for man's subsistence. Cabbages and all plants belonging to the genus, are exceedingly rich in the elements necessary to form the brains, nerves and muscles of animals. Valuable as corn unquestionably is to support men and beasts, we have no doubt that Southern negroes and horses would be able to perform more labor without inconvenience if allowed a greater variety in their vegetable aliment. Till quite recently, the writer never heard of the disease called "Big Head" in horses; and when written to on the subject by a subscriber to the *Cultivator*, he could find in his books treating of the horse, no mention of the malady. Lately a Western correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that the almost exclusive consumption of corn is the cause of the "Big Head" in horses; and that the disease is unknown out of corn-growing districts. Growing colts and even old horses, are healthier and more active when kept mainly on hay, grass, oats, peas and other legumes; although a little corn is unobjectionable, and the leaves of the plant free from mould and dust, are excellent winter feed. Every cultivator ought to raise a plenty of the small white English bean for table use, for white and colored persons. They are much better than our common field pea, and are easily grown as a field crop on good land. As a general rule, servants should have more milk than is now provided for them, whether young or old. The curd, sugar and butter which it contains, are admirably adapted by nature to the every day wants of the human system. By feeding their colts

and their offspring on the milk of the Camel, the Arabs have produced the finest horses in the world, and men of uncommon powers of physical endurance. Blood is but slightly changed in the lacteal gland when transformed into milk; and the rapid and healthy growth of the young of all the mammalia attests the nutritive value of this food. Milk, cream, curds and butter can be produced cheaper than fat hogs at the South, according to our experience.

Good syrup made from Chinese Sugar Cane will greatly lessen the annual consumption of bacon without detriment to the strength and health of all laboring persons. The writer has been using the syrup in his family over four months; and it is now as clear and thick as the best of honey. Our barrels contain considerable granulated sugar. We have been feeding the seed ground into meal some months to cows and other animals, and regard 100 pounds of the meal of the Sorghum as equal to 75 lbs. of corn meal. Our Sugar Cane seed weighs 46 pounds to the bushel. The seed and blades will pay for cultivation; and if fed properly and all the manure saved, the latter with that derived from the bagasse, will do something toward the improvement of poor land. At another time we may say something on the relative value of oil, starch and sugar as constituents of animal nutrition. Nature produces them abundantly in many plants; and as sources of heat and force in animals, each deserves to be studied by every inquiring mind.

Working animals too often fail of being properly supplied with water. To some this will appear an unnecessary remark in treating of animal force. Our observation of negro carelessness, however, lead to the belief that serious injury is frequently done to mules, horses and oxen from neglect of the kind indicated.

A suitable allowance of salt, and that at least once a week, contributes to the healthy action of every animal function, whether of digestion, assimilation or excretion. At the last United States Horse Show in Springfield, Mass., a gentleman exhibited a team of four horses—common working animals—one pair was 29 years old, and the other 25, and both healthy and active as colts; and simply because their owner knew how to make the most of the force which nature gives to the horse. L.

Hints on Wheat Culture.

The wheat crop is of so much consequence to the whole community, and especially to the large body of our readers, that we are not likely to make it too frequently the subject of remark.

It is a reproach to our agriculture that while the very frequent experience of some of our best farmers gives crops of thirty and forty bushels per acre, the usual product of our lands without a large direct outlay for fertilizers, are hardly more than a fourth of these quantities. The ready excuse is the difference in the quality of the land. As a general thing this is only an excuse. The very lands now so productive, have been, within the memory of many now

living, as poor as the poorest; and of those now so poor, who will undertake to say that their natural constitution makes them incapable of the highest degree of improvement?—There are, no doubt, cases of this sort, but they are exceptional; generally there is nothing wanting but the proper use of the right means. When a land-holder finds that on all his possessions, he has not so much as a garden or a favourite lot which pays the cost of manure put upon it, and that weeds do not grow near his kitchen door or his pig pen, he may give up his land in despair. Otherwise let him not excuse his indolence and want of spirit, by charging the fault upon his land, without giving it at least a very fair trial. Nor is it flattering to our vanity, that even our best farmers, on the best lands, come so far short, generally, of what these grounds are capable of producing. Well attested cases of fifty bushels to the acre, we have had on a small scale, and frequent cases of forty to the acre, on considerable fields.—They show sufficiently what can be done.—But such crops are so very rare, that it is plain enough the most successful cultivators cannot command them. In England, on large estates, an average of forty to forty-eight bushels is not unusual, according to Mr. Colman, and he mentions one well proved case of *ninety* bushels to the acre. But there as well as here, how very far below the lowest of these numbers, are the average crops of many of the best farmers. The truth is, that the great body of cultivators do not work up to the knowledge at their command; and the most intelligent do not understand the subject of wheat growing, as so important a matter should be understood.—We plead the numerous enemies with which the wheat crop is plagued, as the cause of so much uncertainty and failure, and with some reason. Sometimes, as during the present season, no known remedy has been of any avail against their ravages in certain localities. But taking the average of the ten years past, we think it will be admitted that the growing of wheat has not been unprofitable, and that the certainty as well as the quantity of the crop has been in almost exact proportion to the skill of the cultivator in the improvement of his lands, and the proper manuring and cultivation of his crop.

It is mere folly to undertake to cultivate wheat upon poor land insufficiently manured. Land not capable of yielding fifteen bushels to the acre, should be manured, or let alone for some improving crop.

Wheat requires clean culture; it cannot be grown to advantage on any grass sod, except a well managed clover-fallow. A well turned clover sod, that has been mowed or judiciously grazed, is the best preparation for a crop.—The pea-fallow is thought by many equal, by some superior, to the clover. Its value for the wheat crop will depend, in a measure, upon the care with which it is managed; so large a mass of vegetable matter put in with a shallow plowing, may keep the surface soil so porous as to do the wheat a serious harm.* If not

*The case mentioned in our last by our correspond-

very thoroughly turned under with a deep furrow it is better perhaps to do as is done by some experienced cultivators in Virginia, and so put in the wheat and the vines, as to leave a large portion of the latter uncovered on the surface. In either case, the land should be heavily rolled. A firm seed bed seems essential to the well-being of wheat. Deep plowing is not to be objected to, but it is important that the earth be well compacted with the roller, when the seed is sown.

Any grass sod, other than clover in its second year, should be planted in some cleansing crop, which will give the sod time to be thoroughly rotted. The best of our cultivated crops for this purpose is, without question, tobacco. The neat, careful cultivation, the thorough shading, and destruction of all grass and weeds, leave the ground in a state of perfect preparation for the wheat. The shallowest working of the surface which is sufficient to cover the seed, is all the labor required for putting in the crop; or a drill alone will do it, without any other preparation.

The most common cleansing crop is corn, but it is by far inferior to tobacco. If rich enough for wheat, the crab grass grows so luxuriantly after the working ceases, that it is hard to put the wheat in properly. If not rich enough to produce grass, it is not fit for wheat. A great deal of the wheat crop, however, is sown upon the corn-field, and it is upon these fields that the purchased fertilizers are chiefly used. Wheat growers of very reliable judgment, have adopted the practice of putting in the seed upon corn land with the drill, with no previous preparation by plowing. Others stir the surface with harrows, only enough to procure a covering for the grain. They avoid turning under the grass, and leave a firm bed for the crop to grow upon.

The practice of drilling in wheat with a machine, is one of the most important advances which has been made in wheat culture. The saving of seed, the increase of the crop, the security against winter-killing, and great economy in the application of fertilizers, are advantages so important and so well ascertained, that no one who sows twenty-five acres, should fail to use the drill.

The introduction of the drill-culture will be followed, we do not doubt, by the practice of spring cultivation, with an implement to stir the intervals between the rows of wheat. The use of the roller is of great importance in the spring, to close the seams left open by the action of the frost, and settle the plants well in their bed. But the stirring of the intermediate spaces to the depth of a few inches, in such a manner as not to disturb the plants, would admit the influence of the rains and atmosphere, with undoubted advantage to the crop.

dent, Mr. Rouzee, may be accounted for in this way: the mere growing of the pea vine by shading and cleansing the ground, is an excellent preparation for wheat. Therefore there was a good crop where the vine was entirely removed. It was inferior where the vine was left, because perhaps the bed was left too open, and exposed to the action of the weather.

As to the time of seeding, the rule is, certainly, to sow early. There is great advantage in having the seeds sown deep enough in the ground, to get the plants well rooted by winter. It may be well borne in mind, however, that while the enemies of this crop generally, seem to have taken counsel together for its destruction, the fly especially has, for several seasons, been accumulating upon us, and may be of course expected again in force. It is desirable, for this reason, to postpone the seeding till after about the 5th of October. Earlier seeding is less essential, with advantages we now have, than it was some years ago; because, 1st, the drill is almost an insurance against winter-killing; and 2d, the use of guano is almost an insurance against rust. We would take chances against rust and frost, with a drill and only fifty pounds of guano, sowing by the middle of October, rather than to sow twenty days earlier without them. As to fly, the later seems to be, without question, the safer time. The impression that the later sown wheat is as subject to the attack of fly in the spring as that sown early, has not been sustained by our observation of the past crop. The field which had most fly in the fall, has been that which suffered most from its ravages in the spring. This, we say, is our observation; we should be glad to learn how far it coincides with that of others.

We would not, therefore, in this latitude, sow before the 5th of October, but would have every thing in readiness, to get through at the earliest possible time after this. The fallow should be in readiness weeks before, that it may become well settled by seeding time. The corn should be cut off and set up, and every preparation should be made in advance, which may expedite the work of seeding, when once begun.

In conclusion, the wheat growers of Maryland and Virginia, have had this season an unusual opportunity of becoming acquainted with the character and habits of the several enemies which beset this crop. In some districts they have been very destructive, while in others they seem only to have given notice of their intention to come again. It is to be supposed, that there has been picked up by intelligent observers, many hints which might throw such light upon their ways, as would enable us, in a measure, to prevent or circumvent them. Why will not our friends furnish us with any information they may have gathered?

[American Farmer.

TO PREVENT TURKEYS STRAYING FROM HOME.—It was stated in conversation that turkeys will not leave the yard in which they are put, if a strip of red flannel is tied around the wing, long enough to trail on the ground.—The receipt is simple and easily tried, and, if effective, would prove of great benefit in removing a source of much loss and annoyance to the turkey breeder. The vanity of the fowl is probably affected by this means, as he wouldn't wish to run the risk of seeing strangers with such a drag upon his dignity.

[Country Gentleman.

Taxation.

It may be asked, what has the Farmer and Planter to say on taxation? Is it a legitimate subject? Are you not trespassing on your neighbor's field, Mr. Editor? To all of which we answer *no!* We claim, for the farmers and planters, as deep an interest in the feeling matter of taxation, as *any* other class has a right to claim, if not a "*lectle*" deeper; and that, therefore, we have a right to *speak* and to be *heard*; and taking this position, we commend to the careful consideration of our readers, the objects of the communication below, which is one of a series addressed through the columns of the "*Fairfield Herald*," to the candidates for the Legislature in that district, by a writer over the signature of "A." If we were to undertake to point out the objectionable features, if it has any, of the article, we have not, after carefully reading it, fixed in our mind where we would commence. The idea of taxing "bald old fields" as high or higher than other lands, is to be sure a novel one, but, on reflection, for more reasons than given by the writer, we are rather inclined to believe that the result would ultimately be to produce a healing effect on the innumerable and most disgusting galled and "bald old fields," every where to be found as a memento of the skinning system that has been pursued throughout the length and breadth of our State. For ourself, we can assure our readers had we to pay such tax, we should at once either go to work to bring our old fields into cultivation, and to improve them, or give them away to some poor and industrious man that would do so. There are other reasons that might be given for laying an equal tax on all lands, and a very important one is the removal of the temptation to making of false returns on lands as now classed 1st, 2d and 3d quality. We can't say what tax collectors think, but we believe there are hundreds, yea, thousands of such false returns made in our State; perhaps innocently; for how are we to distinguish between first and second, and second and third qualities of land? Where is the line of distinction placed? Can any man lay his finger on it? Can he fix it? Our wise Legislators have left a wide gap open here, and when "Self the wavering balance shake," man is too apt to err on the safe side. But to other items.

On the subject of a poll tax, we endorse the writer's views fully, and presume most of our readers will do the same; and so of money at interest, professions, &c. If, instead of repealing the usury laws as many are contending for, and none so stoutly as money lenders, arguing all the time that it will be for the benefit of the borrower; (we heard a gentleman in a speech in opposition to the repeal of the usury laws in our Senate last winter, say that he never knew a poor man or a money borrower ask for such a law; it was the money lender—the speculator on money—who, and who *only*, desired the repeal of the usury laws.) if, instead of repealing, as above, our Legislature would tax money *loaned* at interest, the taxes would, without doubt, fall more equally on capitalists than it now does. Why not tax a thousand

dollars at interest, which is bringing in seventy dollars yearly, and no risk, as much as a thousand dollars worth of young negroes, which are an expense to the owner until able to earn their clothing and food?—We do not believe it proper to tax either young or old negroes—such as are either unproductive or worthless, and both an expense to the owner.

As to a tax on *dogs*, every reader of the Farmer and Planter knows our position. We do hope and believe the next Legislature will do something which will have the effect to put a stop to the dog mania in our State. We see in the Independent Press, at a late dinner given the candidates in that district, that one gentleman, Col. Harper, (?) is reported as advocating a law for taxing dogs; nothing is reported as having been said on this subject by the other candidates present, but we can venture to speak for one of them, Col. McGOWAN, he having stood by us "like a brother" last winter, in an effort to get a kindred measure through the House on the last day of the Session, which we have heretofore spoken of. We hope and trust the good people in old Abbeville will not fail to do themselves the justice to elect such men as are not afraid to "face the music" on this question. The bill alluded to above was introduced by a worthy member from Abbeville, Col. GRIFFIN, last winter, but the indisposition of his family called him home just before the close of the Session, and hence we had not his support when the fight came upon its passage; nothing but the advanced stage of the Session, however, prevented its passage. We see our friend is not a candidate this year—attending to his well conducted farm in preference, we presume. May he greatly assist in sending a substitute that will keep the ball in motion until it reaches the jail of dog deliverance.

To Messrs. Palmer, McCants, Davis, Rutland and Boylston:

Gentlemen:—In a previous article I played the fault-finder in criticising our present mode of levying taxes. If I am not satisfied with the existing method, I should remain silent or offer a substitute equally practicable and more just. This I hope to do now, and will be concise, as they are facts I am discussing which require but little preamble and no appendix.

The *per capita* tax on *all* negroes or slaves, appears to me to be objectionable, and should be abandoned, to be substituted by a *per capita* tax on slaves *over* twelve and *under* forty-five years of age.

The reverse of this should attach to *all* Free negroes. Their present exemption should be substituted by a direct *per capita* tax upon every one in the State.

Our land tax system should not be completely changed, but reversed in increasing ratio. Our bald old fields and gullied hill-sides should not only be taxed as our bottom lands are at present, but this burthen should be heaped upon them until they would be unable to bear it. Whereas *cultivated* bottoms, and original forests should be taxed more lightly, if

possible, than our old fields are at present.— This system would effect a change among our freeholders much to be desired. The thousands of acres of barren, sterile land now held by planters, who scarcely know their own land marks, would be sold to the small farmer, whose industry guided by conscience would in a few years produce the changes alluded to in my last. Our planters would then preserve their forest lands, whose retention of moisture is so effectual in preventing droughts, and whose annual deposits of foilage are such rich nurseries to the methodical, prudent planter.

This change moreover would make every district in the State, north of Fairfield, contribute something to the State Treasury more than they draw from it; whereas, some of them annually take *out* more than they put *into* this treasury. But it is of Fairfield, alone, I wish to speak.

There are three other methods of levying taxes, which have never been adopted by this State, and which if adopted would in a great measure benefit Fairfield. The first is a Poll Tax. In my first article it was shown that there were 600 voters in this district, who enjoy all the privileges of a government which they contribute not one cent to support, and by their number wield a powerful influence in selecting our district and Legislative officers. If this privilege is worth exercising it is worth paying for. I don't suggest it as a remedy for our election corruptions, but simply as a means of assisting in defraying the expenses of the State. That all free white citizens who demand the privilege of voting should be made to pay for the exercise of such privilege seems to my mind perfectly consistent; nor does it appear less so to deny the right where some compensation is not given.

Another source of revenue is all monies loaned on interest, or simple notes of hand. One of you may own 100 negroes and a plantation, upon which the tax annually amounts to \$150: A second of you may be a lawyer of three thousand dollars gross income with no capital but your intellect and limited library, and your tax all told will be annually \$25; a third may be a physician, itching for the arrival of the sickly season, knowing that unless somebody takes sick you will not be able to pay town tax upon your house and lot valued at \$4000, and yet beyond this the State comes in for five or six dollars: And a fourth with his safe full of notes and bonds, paying him, it may be, an annual income of ten thousand dollars, walks the free-man indeed, and pays not a dime for the support of the State. Ought this to be the case? Why should not all notes, bonds and cash over a certain amount on hand the 1st day of October be taxed equally and as feasibly as Bank stock, or personal property, or real estate or any other taxable property. They are all indications of wealth, and as possessions from which incomes arise, should be allowed no discrimination by law. Indeed, they should pay a heavy tax, for ten to one, the holder is some old drone, who suspends the key of his money drawer from his neck as an amulet against pov-

erty, or he is some close-fisted note shaver who grows fat in idleness upon the misfortunes of others.

With regard to the taxation on *notes of hand* it may be said, this has been tried and failed. Is this good reason for not trying again? Taxation upon *notes* is the imposition of a double tax, because notes are only of representative value. For instance, I sell either of you a negro for one thousand dollars, in lieu of the money you give me your note. Now you pay tax on the negro, and if I pay on the note, there will be two levies on the same intrinsic amount. I do not contend that the district is \$1000 richer by this transfer of the negro and the creation of your note, but I believe there is the production, or creation of that much more taxable property, exactly as there will be at harvest time two incomes from this one source. The negro may make you three bags of cotton, the note is certain to realize me the legal interest, whether the negro lives or dies. Hence the objection of the double tax is a metaphysical fallacy, which may in some manner or other be construed against any species of property, and may be easily answered by imposing the levy upon the interest accruing from the principal and not upon the face of the note, provided it amounts to the same that would have been imposed upon the principal.

Another *very* important and most lucrative source of revenue would be the innumerable dogs with which our whole country is infested, be they pups, curs, pointers, bulls, hounds, little or big, old or young, of whatever ages, sizes, sexes or races. Had we the possible means of ascertaining accurately how much injury is done by dogs, the quantity of food they eat, the number of sheep and hogs they destroy, and the thieves they protect, and balance all this against the benefit they are to the land, we would be startled to see the overpowering weight against the species. There are at least thirteen hundred *white* families in Fairfield District, and each family (including the negro quarters belonging to that family) will average *four* dogs. Then there are over *five thousand* dogs in this district. What an army of consumers!!! Why, the whole district seems but one vast kennel.

These 5000 dogs will *require* as much food as would feed 5000 pigs. Hence destroy all surplus dogs, and we will raise almost of necessity more hog meat, for pigs will be needed to eat the food now thrown away on this army of dogs. Destroy 2500 of these dogs, and the farmers will replace them with at least 5000 sheep. Destroy *all* dogs belonging exclusively to negroes and roguery will be indirectly driven from the land; as it is, the negro lays his plans for a theft, and the dog stands sentinel the mean while to notify his sable master when any one approaches. *Tax all dogs*, and my word for it, the year will not have elapsed before 2500 carcasses are in the manure pile and as many hides at the tan yard.

The above are some of the evils resulting from our superabundant *dog crop*, now where are the benefits? One man may own a regiment of noisy hounds after whose "cry" it is

his delight to follow in the winter season in search of some cunning fox, but does this sport compensate for throwing down my fence, knocking out your cotton, tramping over a neighbor's wheat, or killing half his flock of sheep. Another sportsman may train his trio of pointers and stalk through your fields after all kinds of game, which are a delight to you, and have as much right to live for your pleasure as to die for his sport. In fact I am not convinced that such trespassing pleasures could not be prohibited by game laws, if they cannot be reached by a dog tax. No substantial benefit arises from too many dogs, but everybody knows that much loss is often the consequence, and hence we should curtail their number in as much as we know there are far too many in our district and throughout the State.

Not to be tedious I must close, and beg leave to present for your consideration, in another communication, a compend of the method by which, I think, more than the present amount of taxes could be collected, falling more equally upon all portions and citizens of the district, and raising a surplus sum which would be sufficient, when added to our road tax to keep our roads in excellent travelling order without dragging the planter away from his crops at any season of the year to patch up a bad road, which soon becomes worse from improper working.

Yours respectfully,

A.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Raising Corn.

MR. EDITOR:—In a great many articles published in agricultural works, the plan proposed or recommended for any particular crop, is such as may suit very well for some small favorite "patch," but is hardly practicable for the whole crop. This does a great deal towards deterring farmers from scientific, or "book farming," as it is generally called. Their practical minds are convinced at a glance, that the plan proposed cannot be put into practical operation for a whole crop, and they throw down the book and plod along in the old way.

Now I propose to give my plan (the plan I have practiced for some years) for raising corn. And although I am aware that I shall advance nothing new, yet I would remark that it is not necessary that a man should adopt every thing new, thinking it is therefore the best; but it is frequently very well to understand the *best old plan*.

In the first place I would recommend that the land should be broken up twice, close, and deep as the nature of the soil will warrant or require. But a great many farmers, from a lack of sufficient horse-power, or other hindering causes, find it impossible to break twice by planting time. In this case, one breaking-up will have to do, but this one should be thorough, close and deep.

Now with regard to the manner of planting I am aware that a great many of the best farmers of the country are in the habit of drilling their corn, and I admit that where the land is liable to wash badly, this is the proper plan; but I submit it to the decision of any practical farmer, if a corn crop is not much more easily cultivated when planted in hills, than when drilled.

Then lay off the rows 4 by 4, or 3 by 5 feet, as the quality of the land may require, and drop the corn in the crossing, two, three or more grains in a place, if the ground be rough, so as to insure a stand of corn at the start; for all farmers of any experience are aware that it is infinitely better to thin out than to replant. Cover with a small scooter plough, going four times to each row, running very close, and deep as we can well go. Thus the ground about the roots of the corn is well broken—a very desirable point, and which you can never do if you wait till the corn comes up. Let it stand until just before the corn begins to come up, or till the first stalks begin to peep through the ground. Then run a harrow over it; if the ground be light and loose, a light harrow will do; but if the ground be rough, or if heavy rains have fallen so as to bake it, weight should be placed on the harrow so as to stir up the surface. This breaks the crust formed, and admits of the corn coming up better, and if any grass has come up, it will effectually destroy it, which is an important item at the start.

As soon as circumstances will admit after the corn comes up, commence ploughing out the middles with small, long shovels, or side ploughs; and although you ran four furrows in covering, yet from the fact that very small ploughs were used, the ridges will be narrow, so we can run close enough to lap the dirt around the corn. Let the women and children, or such hands as are unable to plough, follow with hoes, thinning out to one stalk, and cutting such weeds and bushes as the ploughs may leave. The land is now in first rate order and well broke.

In from three to four weeks plough over again, using larger ploughs this time, and as the corn is now grown to some size, you can run close enough to wrap the dirt around the corn. Let the hoes follow, cutting out such bunches of grass and weeds as the ploughs may have left.

Again, in from three to four weeks, plough over again, but not so deep as heretofore, and the work is done. That is, as a general rule,

three ploughings will make the crop. But there is no rule but has some exceptions, and it may sometimes be necessary to plough four times.

Now one word more in regard to my manner of planting. Some will say it takes too much time to cover with *four* furrows; but it is my opinion that this is the most important item in the whole management of the crop—that is, getting it planted in good order. And we should take time and plant right, although we should be a week or two later in getting done.

A word more in regard to seed corn, and I will close this, already too lengthy article.

It is a well established fact that to keep up a healthy and prolific stock of animals of almost any kind, we must *mix the breed*. I think the same rule is equally applicable to corn.—Consequently I always plant as many varieties as I can conveniently get. White, Red, Yellow, Gourd Seed, &c., mixed together indiscriminately; letting the White predominate, however. The result of this is, that my corn is always sound. While some of my neighbors who planted last year of one variety only, are now complaining of the unsoundness of their corn, I have seen but very few rotten ears in my whole crop.

CORN STALK.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Overseeing.

MAJ. SEABORN—*Dear Sir*:—I have been a subscriber to the Farmer and Planter from its first volume to the present, and am as anxious to read its contents now as ever. Unlike some things, it does not grow old with me. That I have been greatly benefitted by it, I need not tell you.

I propose writing a few lines for its columns, on the occupation of overseeing. That there are a respectable minority of the farming class of the country engaged in overseeing, everybody knows. For a number of years I have been earnestly watching the condition and standing of overseers or agents, (being engaged in it myself) and am astonished many times at seeing so much indifference prevailing for self-improvement. There are thousands, and indeed I might say millions, of the capital of the country employed in farming and planting, and the most of it is directly or indirectly under the management of overseers or agents. This places them under responsibilities, and thus devolves on them a duty. Are we, as a class, capable of discharging those duties, or not?—Are we capable of taking charge of this capital and managing it in such a manner that at

the end of each year, it will be in safe keeping, and pay a profitable interest?

That there is need of improvement among overseers, is plain, and all who have their employers' interest and the improvement of the country at heart, feel it. I think there is nothing that will add more to the agricultural improvement of our country, than the general improvement of overseers, considering the position they occupy. How many employers have seen and felt the incompetency of his overseer to manage his farm; and how many have lost a considerable per cent. on their capital, by an incompetent manager. I acknowledge that I am behind the times, and have great need of improvement. I think that all overseers should use every means within their reach to acquire a knowledge of their calling, which is extensive and varied. It is no trifle for an overseer to know something of the nature and condition of the soil on which he has to spend so much labor. It is important that he should know something of all kinds of stock and their diseases; also the nature and habits of the crops he attempts to grow, and the nature and disposition of the negro that he has to attend to so closely. These are all important items with an overseer, and yet within the range of my observation I see little else but disregard for all improvement. I have given the subject a great deal of careful study.

If you think this worth noticing, you may give it to your readers, and perhaps I will write again; if not, lay it under the table, and no one will object.

BUT FEW.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Grystes Salmoides.

"Out of the frying pan into the fire."—OLD SAYING.

MR. EDITOR:—I am under many obligations to you for your kind remarks upon the article of "No Fisherman," in reply to Mr. T. W. Woodward's unusual article addressed to "Piscator," of your April number. "No Fisherman" shows so much good sense, that I should like to teach him how to *drop a line*, in equally as clever a way as he has done on paper. If I were to allow my temper to be ruffled by every nibble of misrepresentations which my scribbles receive, I should, perhaps, raise my fins at the mis-quotations made by Mr. Woodward in his reply; but as I know him to be a gentleman, I will be charitable enough to believe, that about the time he wrote his article, he had been out fishing, and experienced "fisherman's luck." Perhaps he was (and I opine this, from

his punctuality to the word *grizz'y*.) a victim to a terrible and dreadful east wind, such as Richard Gloucester terms—"Grisloker, wider than it was ne mitze on earth be." The unceremonious disposition by an awful "—" which he makes of Buffon, Cuvier, and all the great lights of national science who have gone before us, evidences a pettishness which seldom belongs to a sensible writer. *Heaven* is a sweet word to write, and if Mr. Woodward's "—" is intended to designate the *other few down below*," we pity the poor old fellows, for they are taking the place of all the pan fish, which they first saddled with jaw-breaking names, and then consigned to the griddle.

In "facing the music" of Mr. Woodward, I do so because I am not ashamed of a single line I have ever written—confident that I have never misrepresented the arguments of an opponent, or penned a personality, which same was not fully deserved. In my first article I intended hastily to give the true designation to a favorite fish, and I did so, meaning no fling at Mr. Woodward's essay. I really was vain enough to believe that he would be pleased with the natural history of the fish, and would be glad to learn its true name. I regret that in these things I was mistaken. I can bear to be baptized a "*new born naturalist*," for it is seldom in this wicked world that we are allowed to lay aside our vitiated natures. As it is, I will lay aside the old shell, and soar away into the new science—for

"Science moves and wisdom lingers."

And I will thus be able, perhaps, to maintain a respectable position in the band of seekers. So here goes for the full history of *Grystes Salmoides*, and an enumeration of the finny tribe, which may further astonish Mr. Woodward. "*Old style*" naturalists have arranged American fishes under 35 families—218 genera, and 729 species. The last enumeration I have met, was published by Dr. Stover, in 1846; and there is no doubt but that when all the species shall have been examined on the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific, and in the intermediate fresh waters, the above number will be fully doubled.

The *Grystes Salmoides* of our Southern States, belongs to the first family, composed of 26 genera, and includes the various species of perch, rockfish, sun-perch, &c. It was first described by Lacepede, and afterwards by Cuvier, Storer, DeKay, and Holbrook. It has a single dorsal fin, with small inter-maxillary, vomerine and palatine teeth, with 6 bronchial rays—head and body dusky above, often with a greenish

and bronzed tint, lower jaw and belly white; opoede with a blueish green spot at its angle.

The true trout (*Salmoides*) are all arranged under the twentieth family. The salmon, the great lake trout, the brook trout of the North, and 18 other American species, belong to this family. The species of this genus (*Salmo*) have two dorsal fins—the first with soft rays; the second, small and adipose.

All the known species of trout (*Salmo*) on both continents, are natives of cold latitudes. Our small brook or speckled trout (*S. fontinalis*) approaches farthest to the South. It is met with only in the coldest mountain streams, on the whole ranges of the Alleghanies, as far to the South as Georgia. Our *Grystes* abounds in the ponds and streams of our Southern seaboard, and above the falls of our rivers, from Virginia to Florida, where the *true trout* could not survive 24 hours. The tail of our Southern fish (*Grystes Salmoides*) resembles that of some species of trout—hence its specific name, (*Salmoides*) but the genera are not formed from the tail. No naturalist could for a moment place this species among the trouts. It is, however, one of the most delicate of all our fishes, and I am not aware that good judges would give the preference to any known species of trout.

We have sometimes heard plain, practical gentlemen, who would not submit to the drudgery of studying natural history, rail at naturalists for their jaw-breaking names. There is some truth in their objections, although men of science are often troubled to find a name.—We, however, perceive in the various vulgar names given to this fish, what a business they have made of it when they spurned science, and set up business for themselves. The northern fisherman calls it "growler," and have mistaken a species from the northern lakes for this species. In Virginia and North Carolina it is called "chub." In South Carolina it is termed "trout;" and indeed it has a different English name in every part of the country, which has created a good deal of confusion. As it is not a *trout*, we must insist that it be called by its scientific name, which is neither "new-born" or pretentious, as Bosc sent the first specimen from this country, to Valenciennes, under the name of *Grystes Salmoides*, which it has retained up to the present time.

I conceive it to be a pure and elevated ambition—the study and love of correct natural science—and having derived more pleasure and satisfaction from such pursuits, than from all others I have engaged in, I hope still to enjoy

such recreations, regardless of the *culexidal* which are sure to be generated in pet fish ponds. My absence at my plantation in Florida, until a recent date; prevented me from seeing the article of Mr. Woodward, and that of "No Fisherman," and I hope you will publish this reply, which may be, "better late than never."

A. G. SUMMER.

Pomaria, S. C., August 1st., 1858.

The Crops in Chester District.

MR. EDITOR:—Having a few leisure moments at my disposal, I have concluded to give you a hasty sketch of the crops over in old Chester. But first of all, I owe you an apology for not sending up my annual subscription. In this, negligence is the only excuse I have to offer, for which I beg pardon, and will do better for the future. Enclosed please find two dollars, for which send the Farmer and Planter to my address, ——— P. O., Chester District, S. C., instead of ———.

Now to the crops. I wish, Mr. Editor, that you could visit my farm. I am sure I could show you something that would make your heart leap, and your eyes dilate with pleasure. My plantation lies immediately on Broad River, on which I was born and raised, and expect to die and be buried. My father bought it about fifty years ago, and the bottom land was cleared long before it came into his possession. He farmed on it and raised a large family, both white and black. It came into my possession in 1846. My bottom land is inclined to be sandy, a greater portion of it. I have planted it twelve years, consecutively in corn, and it improves every year under my mode of cultivation. The present crop is by far the best I have ever made. My *modus operandi* is this: About the first of February I brake well with a bull-tongue plow, after which I commence hauling out my manure—stable, cow-pen, compost, cotton seed, &c.—and throw it in piles, where it remains until I commence planting, which is the last week in March, if the weather is favorable. This is done by running off the rows about four feet apart, with a common sized shovel plow. In this furrow my corn is dropped in the step, say three feet apart, four or five grains in a hill. On each side of the corn I put a double handful of manure, and cover it with two furrows thrown on it with a long Scooter plow. When the corn commences coming up, I run a board over it, by which means I remove all litter, and destroy what weeds and grass that have come up. By this

operation I never have failed obtaining a good stand of corn. I never replant—it seldom does well. When my corn is large enough, I plow it thoroughly with a bull-tongue plow, as deep as it can be done; the hoes follow and thin it to a stand. The second plowing is done with straight shovel plows. At this plowing, peas are planted, which is done by dropping them between the hills of corn, on the bed, and running round the corn covers them sufficiently.—The after culture depends entirely on the seasons. I have never plowed my corn more than three times until this season. The fourth plowing was given in consequence of the heavy frost we had, by which every stalk was killed to the ground, and that too after it was both plowed and hoed; but notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances, my corn sprang farther the second time, and if you could see it, Mr. Editor, you would conclude that Jack Frost was not much after all. In short, Mr. Editor, my corn crop is as good as I want it. My cotton crop is very promising also. The crops throughout the district are very good.

This letter is not written for publication, but merely to let you know how we are getting on in old Chester. I would say that the cotton crop in Chester District is, by far, the best that I ever saw at this season of the year, and the earliest. The fields are white with bloom, and I will hazard the assertion that if the season continues, and rust and moth doth not corrupt, there will be the largest crop made in this district, that ever has been.

With great respect,

Your obedient serv't,
W.

REMARKS.—It will be seen that our esteemed correspondent did not intend his communication for any eye but our own, for which, on a selfish view, we should feel the more obliged; but we cannot, in justice to our readers, deprive them of a share. We are fond of a social glass now and then. (Judge O'Neal does not read our paper now) but it affords us no pleasure to drink alone. Our friend will, therefore, we trust, excuse the liberty we have taken with his communication, which is too good to be dropped still-born. We have suppressed Post Office and name, except one letter, and hope to hear again from W. when his crop is gathered, if not before.

SCOURS IN ANIMALS.—A writer in the Maine Farmer recommends for this disease fine pulverized bone. We have never seen it tried, but from the nature of the substances that constitute bone, such as lime to correct too great acidity, and gelatine to smooth the irritated surfaces, it is probable its employment would be useful.

Good Management, and a Good Crop.

Below, we, by request, give an extract from a letter received by an old friend and subscriber, now in Alabama, from his friend in our State, setting forth, a glowing account of his present crop of wheat, &c., with the prospects generally on the farm over which he presides so creditably to himself as manager, and so profitably, as would seem, to his employer. As the letter was not written for publication, we are requested to suppress names and places.

* * * * *

The yield of my crops this year is as follows: Wheat, first best acre, 35 bushels; second ditto, 29 bushels; the remainder, not one acre, 25½ bushels. Had the rust not effected it so badly, 60 bushels to the best acre would not have pleased me too much. So much for the old field on the Laurens road. My oats were pretty early, likewise injured by the rust, but made 23½ bushels to the half acre before my door, and sowed thin on account of the grasses. English barley, at the end of my house, not half an acre, 17½ bushels. I must state to you that it would do you good to see my lawn. A furrow cannot be seen in it, and the clover at present stands about 5 inches high, and as thick as it can sit on the ground. I must say it is greener than grass at present.—There are few low-country gents that have come up, but come to see it.

I got Mr. ———'s Portable Steam Thresher to my place to thresh out my crop this year, and held him three days hard puffing. I also put up a straw stack in the Scotch fashion, that has taken them all down about ———. I can safely say it is as large as the new Baptist Church, deducting the spin and bell. It is sound straw upon straw to the top.

I may further say, I have taken old Mr. ——— terribly down this year. To his best acre he only made 15½ bushels; and for Dr. ———, better for him to attend to pile-making, than raising wheat and turnips against Mr. ———.

On my wheat land I sowed fully one acre of turnips yesterday; the remaining part sown in cow-peas, and looking splendid. I have got some very fine corn. I planted all Peabody's "Prolific" this year. There is not a bad yard on my farm or crop. And for the garden, it is more than good. I have had the first of everything in ——— this year. My second crop of peas on the same ground is ready for use at present, and think I can raise the third on the same ground yet before fall; at least I'm going to try it.—This has been a splendid summer for showers. We have as yet got them as we wanted them.

Experiments in Butter Making---Interesting Results.

In a report on butter making by a committee to the *Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry*, we find some statements which will profit every butter maker to read. The committee says:

We present a few extracts from various authors on subjects connected with the dairy business; with remarks and suggestions of our own thereon. Commencing with an essay on butter making by Prof. Traill, of Scotland.—His experiments show that,

Sweet cream produced 1386 grains of good butter that kept sweet.

Sweet milk and its cream churned together after churning some hours, produced no butter.

Sour cream churned alone, produced 1756 grains of well flavored butter; it came quickly, and became rancid after a few months—the buttermilk was very poor.

Sour milk and its cream churned together, produced 1968 grains; its color paler than the last, but well flavored; it was one hour in coming; the buttermilk was excellent; it soon became rancid.

Cream taken from milk that had been heated up to 156°, produced 1998 grains; it had a rich yellow color; was well flavored; there was no scalded taste that spoiled the milk; became rancid sooner than that from sour milk.

From these experiments it is shown that to obtain the best of sweet butter that will keep for a greater length of time than any other without being rancid, we must churn sweet cream—that if the buttermilk is valuable in market, and the butter can be disposed of soon after it is made, there will be the greatest gain by churning the sour milk and cream together—that by scalding the milk and then taking off the cream, the milk is best for market—although the yield of butter is greatest, and the flavor good, it must be put in market direct from the churn and consumed without delay or it becomes rancid and worthless—that in proportion to the quantity of butter produced from the cream from a given measure of milk, reference being had to the length of time the cream suffered to remain upon it, will be its liability to become soonest rancid; that the excess of weight as exhibited above is to be attributed in a great measure to the absorption and combination of caseine, (curd) with the oleaginous (oily) portions of the cream—that the presence of caseine, although it is not objectionable by its imparting any unpleasant flavor while new, renders the butter of less value, as it soon grows rancid; and for the further reason that it is used, necessarily, more profusely than pure butter, which has less curd in it. It has been fully proved that milk contains on an average only one per cent more curd than butter.

Dumas says "that the facility with which butter becomes rancid, depends on the presence of caseine, from which it is necessary it should be separated in order to its preservation."

This can be effected by fusion (melting).—For exportation to hot climates, or for the purpose of preserving early-made butter sweet throughout the heat of summer for winter's use, it should be clarified before salting or much working. For this purpose it is put into a lipped vessel and placed into another of water, which is to be gradually heated till the butter is melted. Care must be taken not to over-heat it; it must be kept melted until the curd and buttermilk have settled; the clear melted butter is then poured off from the sediment into small white-oak kegs, containing from 20 to 30 pounds each, or in maple cannipails, of Shaker manufacture, for family use. When sufficiently cooled, and before it hardens, it may be salted with less than half an ounce of fine *rock salt* to the pound, but as it is difficult to incorporate the salt well, the salt may be omitted, and the butter will keep perfectly sweet. What butter remains in the vessel will rise to the top, and harden like tallow when taken off the amount of curd and buttermilk will appear. You will then have the pure article, equal to the best of table butter for all the purposes to which sweet oil (as we get it) or drawn butter is applied—it is perfect for shortening—melt it in milk instead of water. It is not suitable to spread cold on bread.

One of our committee in the warm season last year, took seventeen pounds of sweet salted lump butter and proceeded as above directed. What settled to the bottom after melting, was composed of two ounces of limped whey, two ounces of fine salt and twelve ounces of curd—in all one pound. Had this curd not been extracted, the whole, long before this (Feb. 2d) would probably have been rancid.—The experiment proved perfectly satisfactory, and is recommended to the public. Store keepers back in the country who take in butter, would find it to their account by putting it in practice, thereby diminishing the amount of "grease-butter" sent to market.

In a former communication on the subject of butter-making, we disapproved of the practice of adding water to the cream, and of washing the butter, to rid it of its buttermilk. The carbonate of lime, found in water, causes the incrustation, which forms on the inside of utensils in which it is boiled. Butter absorbs the lime and magnesia, present in salt and water, when it comes in contact with them: it has an injurious effect on its quality and preservation. It is therefore in all cases safest not to wash it, even if the water be pure, it will in a measure destroy its fine fragrance and flavor.

The use of pure salt cannot be too often recommended to those who have dairies in charge. More than a million dollars can be annually saved to our farmers in this country by attention to this point. No one denies that good pure salt is made at our salt springs by solar evaporation, if taken from the first pan where all the crystals are perfectly square; but this salt comes to the consumer with various degrees of adulteration; and is therefore cheap, as to the first cost. After the square crystals of pure salt have ceased to form, then, by fur-

ther evaporation the salts of magnesia and glauber salts begin to show long needle-shaped crystals, very bitter to the taste; easily dissolved and always moist in damp weather. It will not preserve fish or meat, and when used for butter will dissolve and run from it like water. Whereas rock salt gives it firmness, which facilitates the extraction of buttermilk and preserves it sweet. Many bags marked rock salt, have been filled more than once; and many others never came in contact with it. Let the farmers club together and send to a seaport and get the best rock salt and sift out the fine, wash and dry the lumps, and have it ground at any grist mill in the neighborhood, as our fathers did, before the introduction of the very improved fine Liverpool bag or blown salt.

Healthful Diet.

I am one of the lovers of the *Homestead*; as I am "roaming," I have but just now had an opportunity of reading sister Flora's article upon good living and cheap at that. I can hardly agree with her, that men, and women too, are no better than animals; but I do, that to keep them in a happy state, we must attend to their stomachs; and it is most effectually promoted by supplying them with nutritious, healthy food; such as will render them hardy and enduring, rather than sickly and effeminate; not give us dyspepsia or the gout. It is truly wonderful, that there is so little crime committed, when the general system of dieting is taken into account. There are but few who know the real original flavor of food, it is so "rendered palatable," as it is termed, by condiments; and a frightful source of what has become the most prevailing disease in this country—dyspepsia. If asked how bread tasted without butter, they would be like the man that boasted, he could eat any beverage by its right name by tasting with his eyes shut, which he readily did until water was presented when he had to own that it was something beyond its comprehensions. It would certainly be for our interest to keep our husband's stomachs in a healthy state, but really, I would not dare guarantee that if I were to furnish him such *delicious food* as those *pates*. When we take into account the manner of "fattening" these geese's livers, we shall conclude there would not be much difference in the size between a sheep's liver, and a goose's liver. The usual practice is to confine them in a warm place, by fastening their feet to a board, so that it is impossible for them to move at all, then they are literally stuffed with food, until they are obliged to kill them to *save their livers*, and of course the liver becomes enormously enlarged by receiving a great amount of waste and effete matter that would have been thrown off by exercise, so that it is nothing more or less than a diseased mass.

Very few persons understand, or ever dream of the effect of diet upon health; physical and mental. It has much to do with our morality even. Is any one in a condition to think clearly and act judiciously, after dining upon at least a dozen articles, and each one composed of a

many more, to say nothing of the beverages that are drank in place of that which is furnished by nature, and the only one that will effectually allay thirst. The time is coming when we shall all see the necessity of adopting a natural unconcentrated diet, if instead of the puny, half-made, and short-lived race, we would have noble men and women.—*Homestead.*

Restoration of Persons apparently Drowned.

As a considerable number of persons have met with an untimely death in consequence of being drowned, and it since appears that in several instances parties might have been saved by proper treatment, it is worth while to republish the instructions of the late Dr. Hall, for the restoration of persons apparently drowned:—*Exchange.*

Treat the patient instantly, on the spot, in the open air, exposing the face and chest to the breeze, except in severe weather.

1. *To Clear the Throat.*—Place the patient gently on the face, with one wrist under the forehead—all fluids and the tongue itself then fall forwards, leaving the entrance into the windpipe free. If there be breathing, wait and watch; if not, or if it fail—

1. *To Excite Respiration.*—Turn the patient well and instantly on his side and excite the nostrils with snuff, or the throat with a feather, &c., and dash cold water on the face, previously rubbed warm. If there be no success, lose not a moment, but instantly—

3. *To Imitate Respiration.*—Replace the patient on his face, raising and supporting the chest well on a folded coat or other article of dress. Turn the body very gently on the side and a little beyond, and then briskly on the face, alternately repeating these measures deliberately, efficiently and perseveringly, fifteen times in the minute, occasionally varying the side.—(When the patient reposes on the chest, this cavity is compressed by the weight of the body and expiration takes place, when he is turned on the side this pressure is removed and inspiration occurs.) When the prone position is resumed, make equal but efficient pressure, with brisk movement, along the back of the chest, removing it immediately before rotation on the side. (The first measure augments the expiration, the second commences inspiration.) The result is respiration, and, if not too late, life.

4. *To Induce Circulation and Warmth.*—Meantime rub the limbs upwards with firm grasping pressure and with energy, using handkerchief, &c. By this measure the blood is propelled along the veins towards the heart.—Let the limbs be thus warmed and dried and then clothed, the bystanders supplying the requisite garments. Avoid the continuous warm bath, and the position on or inclined to the back. This treatment is to be persevered in for three or four hours, as it is the erroneous opinion that persons are irrecoverable because life does not soon make its appearance. Cases have come under the notice of the Royal Humane Society of successful results even after five hours.

Sun-Stroke.

The symptoms of sun-stroke generally indicate a constitution previously impaired. Sometimes there is active congestion and apoplectic effusion within the cranium, and in such cases a death generally ensues. But more often the signs are those of physical, and, particularly, cerebral prostration; the pulse is feeble, the cheeks, and, in fact, the whole surface of the body are pale and ghastly. The blood is defective in quality, thus impeding the vital processes. The heart is evidently the organ at fault, having suddenly succumbed under fatigue and exhaustion, though the head gives the first intimations of danger. This premonitory symptom of sun-stroke mentioned in the first instance is recorded in history, which may be found in the Bible: "And when the child was grown, it fell on a day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. And he said to his father, 'My head, my head?' And he said to a lad, 'Carry him to his mother.' And when he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and died."—2 Kings iv., 18-20.

Manasses, also, the husband of Judith, the heroine (chap. viii, 2, 3), died in a similar manner: "Manasses was her husband, of her tribe and kindred, who died in the barley-harvest.—For as he stood overseeing them that bound sheaves in the field, the heat came upon his head, and he fell upon his bed and died in the city of Bethulia."

Convulsions sometimes occur, and in the intervals there are tremblings of muscles and limbs, not greatly unlike those of delirium tremens. These are very common in diseases of debility, where the nervous system is largely involved, but generally do not require specific attention. Even during the progress of recovery, there is sometimes considerable mental aberration.

The premonitions of an attack are readily recognized. There is a feeling of pressure upon the head, the blood tingles in the vessels, the air seems too hot and tenuous for breathing. A person who was once thus affected, tells us that he was cured by immediately bathing the head, arms and shoulders in water. While undergoing this process, he experienced a sensation as if burning coals were spread over the whole scalp, but in less than an hour every oppressive symptom had passed away. A brother of the same gentleman, similarly attacked, was not so cautious. He fell to the ground insensible, while at labor in the harvest field, and after lingering two or three days, much of the time comatose, and with what a physician mistakenly termed and treated as typhoid fever, was suffered to die.

The remedies "laid down in the books" are alcoholic and ammoniacal stimulants; these being "diffusive" and causing an equal circulation of blood throughout the body, and particularly to the surface. The patient is advised to swallow the medicine, but if he is "out of his head," it can be given by enema. Washing the head with cold water, and rubbing liniments upon the surface with the hands, keep-

ing up the friction as long as may be necessary, will generally answer the purpose. When much dullness or stupor remains, coffee and strong tea are efficacious.

The means of prevention are simple. Persons in sound health are seldom attacked; previous debility, general depression of the vital forces, unusual and excessive physical exertion, violent gusts of passion, excessive drinking of cold water, or of alcoholic beverages, superadded to exposure to the summer sun or a hot fire, create the danger.

Careful moderation in these particulars will generally secure exemption. The Arab, wandering in an arid desert, subsisting on camel's milk and a few vegetables, usually enjoys immunity; his blood is not vitiated by stimulating food or unwholesome drinking. Sir Joseph Banks spent twenty minutes in an oven where beef was cooking without harm. Fishermen, for the sake of protection, sometimes fill their hats with moist sea-weed; though any large leaves, or even a wet cloth upon the head, will answer as well. This is an infallible preventive, and should be more generally observed by laboring men.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Receipt for Curing Beef and Pork.

This receipt, which originated with us, and has now had many years of trial, we believe to be unsurpassed as a pickle. Nearly all the modern receipts which have appeared in the different agricultural journals, partake in some instances almost identically, of the ingredients and proportions set forth in ours, which we first laid before our readers some fifteen or eighteen years ago. At this period in the season, when farmers and others will soon be putting down their winter's, and we may add, their next year's supply of meat, it may be of service to republish the receipt, which is as follows:

To 1 gallon of water,
Take 1½ lbs. of salt,
½ " brown sugar,
½ oz. saltpetre,
½ " potash.

In this ratio the pickle to be increased to any quantity desired.

Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the salt and sugar (which will not be a little) rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw the pickle into a large tub to cool, and when cold, pour it over your beef or pork, to remain the usual time, say from four to six weeks, according to the size of the pieces, and the kind of meat. The meat must be well covered with the pickle, and it should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpetre.

Several of our friends have omitted the boiling of the pickle, and found it to answer equally as well. It will not, however, answer so well. By boiling the pickle, it is purified—for the amount of dirt which is thrown off by the operation, from the salt and sugar, would surprise one not acquainted with the fact.

[*Germantown Tel.*

From the American Farmer. Farm Economy---No. 1.

There is no one virtue so little understood, and so seldom practised by Southern farmers and planters, as that of economy. In making use of this term, I do not mean that contracted parsimonious economy, more properly termed stinginess, which shuts up the heart and stifles every generous emotion and liberal enterprize; but that enlarged and comprehensive economy, which induces the farmer to husband all of his resources and apply them to the best advantage.

I shall not attempt to discuss this subject in all of its varied details, for that would require a volume. I propose simply to direct the attention of Southern, and more particularly Eastern Virginia farmers to the great importance of the subject, and at present throw out some hints touching the economy of the capital usually invested.

The great besetting sin, and almost universal fault with Southern farmers is to own and cultivate too much land. This has become a most inveterate habit, particularly with our Eastern Virginia planters. There is scarcely one of them that does not own double as much land as he really needs. This habit has grown out of the particular circumstances attending the first settlement of the country, when lands were cheap, rich and abundant. It has been entailed by one generation upon another, and has been so long and so universally practised upon, that the most ruinous consequences have resulted from it. It is this system that at one time threatened to depopulate Eastern Virginia—that has converted her once rich and luxuriant fields into barren wastes, and that has produced the present worn-out, dilapidated appearance of a great portion of it.

With some of our old Va. fogies, this practice has become not only a confirmed habit, but a matter of pride and taste! and they would conclude that they had ceased to be old-fashioned Virginia gentlemen, if they were not surrounded by a whole territory of old-field pine and broom straw. Our old Virginia planter is a regular filibuster (only he is willing to pay). More land—more territory—is his everlasting cry. The broad expanded acres have a greater charm for him, than the well filled corn crib, fat cattle, or the rich golden harvest. Every cent that he can hoard up by dint of the most rigid stinginess, is invested in more land, and when his cash fails him, his credit is pushed to its utmost limit for the same purpose; and when at last his wide spread acres have been reduced to utter and hopeless barrenness, and starvation begins to stare him in the face, he sells a negro or two to pay his debts and sets out for the far distant West—there to pursue the same ruinous system, and in due course of time to produce in the same results.

In order to show the immense loss that this system entails upon the agricultural interest in a financial point of view, and to exhibit the enormous amount of capital that is lying unproductive, I propose to enter more into de-

tails, and will exhibit some estimates that I have prepared upon the subject.

It may be safely estimated, that our farmers generally own double as much land as they really need, provided they were to adopt a thorough system of cultivation. But to be entirely within the bounds of reason, I will put it down to one-third—as an example, I will take one of your James River planters, who owns say a farm of 1500 acres, worth \$30,000. According to this estimate, he has 500 acres more than he needs, or he has \$10,000 more capital invested in his business than is necessary.—Now, this enormous sum of \$10,000 is not only idle and unproductive—it not only does not pay a cent of interest or income, but it is actually a tax—a dead expence upon its owner. For he has to pay in the first place, an annual tax of forty or fifty cents upon every \$100 worth, into the treasury of the State—this amounts to say \$40. In the second place it is worth \$10 per acre to fence in the 500 acres, adding to the cost of the land \$5,000—the annual interest on which amounts to \$300. And in the third place it is worth 10 per cent to keep up the fencing, which makes another item of \$500—making the annual expense of the surplus land \$840, which added to the interest on \$10,000, the surplus capital invested, say \$600, makes a yearly loss of \$1,440. But the evils of this system do not stop here. The men who own too much land are sure to cultivate too much, and the cultivation of too much land involves a corresponding waste of time and labor, which should be husbanded with as much care as capital. Furthermore, the man who has too much land in cultivation, necessarily cultivates it superficially and badly—the lands are impoverished thereby, and he falls into a uniform habit of waste—improvidence and slovenness about every thing on his farm. And in addition to all this, there is nothing that offers so great an impediment to the onward march of agricultural progress and improvement, as the habit that I have been trying to combat. The man who owns a large tract of poor land scarcely ever makes an attempt to improve it; and simply because the task is such an hurculean one, that he is deterred from ever making it. Whereas, a man with a small farm has comparatively an easy task, which he commences and carries out without hesitation.—But it will be said in defence of this system, that the money invested in these surplus lands is a good investment, because they may increase in value, and a good profit may at least be realized. This may be true in some few instances; but it will not do for every farmer to become a speculator in land; and besides, unless the enhancement in the value of such lands is a very decided one, the annual charges upon them will more than rebut it; for these charges and the loss of interest will double the cost in about 12 years. But, says some very provident old fogey, who wishes, like some old Patriarch—to be surrounded by a whole host of sons and daughters, and grand-sons and grand-daughters—“I must have land enough to settle my children on as they grow up.”

As to this excuse, ten-to-one, the son when he becomes ‘of age,’ will not settle on the land that had been so kindly provided for him. And if he should be disposed to do it, it is equally doubtful whether it would be promoting his interest or not. But, says another, what shall we do with so much surplus land; we cannot find a market for them all at once. This is very true. All bad habits and customs of long standing, require much time to be corrected, and if all of our surplus lands were forced into market at the same time, purchasers could not be found for one-fourth of them. The evils of this system must be corrected by degrees.—We must avail ourselves of every opportunity to reduce the size of our farms to our actual wants, and the purchaser should buy not an acre more than he will need. Reason, common sense and experience all teach us, that the farmer should not own an acre of land that he does not need, for every dollar invested in land over and above that, is not only unproductive, but is actually a tax upon the balance. If the farmer has capital to invest, let him either invest it in that which it is necessary for him to own, more productive—or let him invest it in loans, stocks, or something else that will pay, and not in land that is to remain idle and unproductive.

I propose in my next No. (if I should ever get time to write another,) to say something about the economy of time and labor.

“COMMON SENSE.”

No more appropriate signature could have been adopted by our correspondent—the errors he points out in the practice of the farmers, and planters of his own State (Virginia), are equally applicable to some portions of Maryland, and other Southern States. The subject is one of radical importance, and we hope that the attention of those interested will be more thoroughly aroused to the necessity of its investigation, which we doubt not will lead eventually to a change in their long-coveted practices.

How to SELECT FLOUR.—1. Look at its color; if it is white, with a slightly yellowish or straw-colored tint, buy it. If it is very white, with a bluish cast, or with black specks in it, refuse it. 2. Examine its adhesiveness; wet and knead a little of it between your fingers; if it works soft and sticky, it is poor. Flour made from spring wheat is likely to be sticky. 3. Throw a little lump of dry flour against a dry, smooth perpendicular surface; if it adheres in a lump, the flour has life in it; if it falls like powder it is bad. 4. Squeeze some of the flour in your hand; if it retains the shape given it by the pressure, that too, is a good sign. Flour that will stand all these tests it is safe to buy. These modes are given by old flour dealers, and we make no apology for printing them, as they pertain to a matter that concerns everybody, namely the quality of the “staff of life.”

There is a luxury in remembering a kind act.

Suggestions to the Subscribers to the Farmer and Planter.

The following suggestions from an esteemed subscriber and occasional contributor to our columns, we lay before our readers for their consideration. If we continue the publication of the Farmer and Planter after the close of the current volume, nothing would please us more than to have as near an original sheet as possible; for although selections well made, we consider as valuable, especially to a subscriber who takes but one paper, as most original communications are; yet the general reader would prefer as much original matter in each of his papers as possible to have. Besides, as T. F. A. says, "the duties of the editor would be rendered less laborious." We have, from time to time, since the commencement of our editorial career, invited and urged our subscribers to write for their own paper. Some have nobly come to our assistance—have stuck to us through six troubles, and will not desert us in the seventh. Whilst others have tired in well-doing, and retired from the field, some new recruits occasionally come in, but they are few and far between, and yet, and we think it will produce a slight tinge when these take it to themselves, we have a *large number* of readers that are just as capable of contributing valuable matter to our columns, as are the more liberal small portion that have so generously aided us, who have never given us the scratch of a pen in return for favors received at the hands of their brethren.

On the latter suggestion of "T. F. A.," we have nothing to say. It is for others to consider and act on as best suits their inclinations.

MR. EDITOR:—As I, for one, at least, would be very sorry for the Farmer and Planter to be discontinued for the want of a sufficient number of subscribers to keep it up, I have concluded to write you a few suggestions that have occurred in my mind, which, perhaps, if carried out, might aid some in sustaining it.

It strikes me that if the pages of each number were filled out more with original matter, emanating immediately from its subscribers or contributors, that the Farmer and Planter could be made a much more interesting periodical than it is at present; and that many, hearing of the profits and advantages to be derived from its pages, spoken of with interest by its patrons, would be induced to subscribe and read it for themselves, who are not now subscribers.

Now let all who can write, (and there are very few who cannot, if they would,) write articles for the columns of the Farmer and Planter, and send them to the editor for publication. He can publish them (and I doubt not, would do it with pleasure,) if he thinks fit, and if not, there would be but little harm done. No one

need be afraid or ashamed to make the effort; it would be in a good cause, and something, perhaps, would be written that would be useful to "the rest of mankind." I acknowledge my incompetency to write for a public paper, or for the eye of the critic to criticise; but if any thing that I can write, or say, will be the means of bringing out pens that *are* competent, I will make the venture, if I fail in it. I therefore, propose to be one of thirty who shall write articles for the Farmer and Planter, quarterly, or at least, as often as practicable. The Farmer and Planter is composed of about thirty pages, and by as many as thirty contributors writing for it, those pages might be pretty much filled, at least quarterly, with original matter. Let each contributor, in general, be limited to not more than one, two, or three columns at farthest. Persons to write on any subjects they choose, pertaining to the farm or agriculture. In this way the paper would be conducted, in part, by the farmers themselves; and the duties of the editor, I think, would be rendered less laborious.

Before closing this article, I would suggest to each subscriber, to set about immediately, and see how many new subscribers he can get for the Farmer and Planter between this and the 15th of October, next, and report his success in the November number of the same; so that the editor can inform us definitely in the December number, whether he will continue it or not. I, for one, will endeavor to do what I can towards increasing the list.

With my best respects, Mr. Editor, for your success, and also that of the Farmer and Planter, I remain yours,

Respectfully,

T. F. A.

Calhoun, July 12th, 1858.

USE OF SALT IN COOKING VEGETABLES.—A German professor says that if one portion of vegetables be cooked in pure distilled or rain water, and another in water to which a little salt has been added, a decided difference is perceptible in the tenderness of the two. Vegetables boiled in pure water are vastly inferior in flavor.—This inferiority may go so far in the case of onions that they are almost entirely destitute of either taste or odor, though when cooked in salt water, in addition to the pleasant salt taste, is a peculiar sweetness and a strong aroma.—They also contain more soluble matter than when cooked in pure water. Water which contains 1,420th of its weight of salt is far better for cooking vegetables than pure water, because the salt hinders the solution and evaporation of the soluble and flavoring principle of the vegetable.



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. IX, No. 9, : : : : September, 1858.

The Farmer and Planter---Shall it be Continued?

Since our declaration that the publication of the Farmer and Planter would cease at the close of vol. 9, unless our subscription list could be raised to at least one thousand additional subscribers, we have had from a number of the real friends to the enterprise, various propositions, suggestions, &c., as to the proper course to be pursued by our present corps of subscribers to insure the object in view. A portion of the letters received on this subject, have been published, with our remarks on the same—some of which will be found in this number. But no course, suggested, will, we think, be more likely to succeed than that of our friend, Dr. E. R. CALHOUN, of Greenwood, which will be found on another page. We think the Doctor has struck the right pitch; one that all can sing to who may choose. Some of the friends have proposed paying two prices for *one* paper, but we greatly prefer Dr. C.'s proposition, as we would much rather send our friends *two* papers for two dollars than one, especially when one of the two is turned over to some neighbor or friend, who would, in all probability, after reading it one year, become a permanent and paying subscriber "on his own hook."—Let every subscriber at once go to work and procure one or more *paying* subscribers, (he need not to confine to one if he can get more) and he will, of course, have performed his part, whilst such as are not so fortunate as to procure even *one* name, or dislike "drumming," can, by conforming to Dr. C.'s rule, equally well, claim a share to the honor of sustaining the paper. As will be seen on reading his communication, our friend Dr. C. has performed both parts: first, by subscribing for an absent friend, and then by procuring *two* paying subscribers.

If each one of our present list of subscribers could or *would* send us *one* name only, it would swell our list to a number greater than we have asked for; but some will, in all probability, draw off at the close of the volume, and *many more*, although they may continue their own subscription, will not feel disposed to put themselves to any additional expense or trouble about the matter. It will, therefore, be necessary for such as do resolve to work, to go at it in earnest, to insure the accomplishment of their object.

Were we to consult our own ease and pecuniary interest, without that proper regard to the wishes of our friends that they are entitled to; we should at once say that we could not even, with an increased patronage, continue to devote our services to the paper after the close of the current volume, but we surrender our preferences to their urgent solicitations. And this we assure them we do *only as a matter of accommodation*, and not that we expect to make a dollar by the operation, more than we have heretofore made, for if we continue the paper, we shall employ an assistant, whose wages, with additional materials, must absorb every dollar that our increased list will bring in.

We would prefer all new subscriptions to commence with the new volume, (10) unless the back numbers of the current volume are wanted, which may commence with the April or July numbers. The first three numbers have run out, except, perhaps, a few of the March numbers:

The Cow Disease---Chinese Sugar Cane Killing Cattle.

We re-publish from the *Charleston Mercury*, in this number, two short articles from the pen of Col. A. G. SUMMER, on the subjects above. The prevalence of the "*cow disease*," "*thrush*," "*sore tongue*," "*black tongue*," "*blaine*," &c., seems to be co-extensive with the disease termed "*rust*" on oats, which latter is believed by many, to produce the former; not by us, however, as we have known many cattle affected that had had no access to oats. It seems to prevail as an epidemic, without any known cause, and it is fortunate that the disease is so easily controlled. We have known of but few fatal cases. Most of our stock at a plantation from home have been affected—we have had but two cases at home, but none fatal at either place. We have used salt and ashes, with occasionally sulphur added, freely at home, which we think has acted as a preventive of the disease. Fearing that the disease might, in some degree, be connected with *distemper*, our first treatment has been with an eye to that disease, which was a drench of a strong decoction of peach tree leaves fully saturated with salt, and to which was added a tablespoonful of spirits of turpentine. The wash for the mouth was a solution of burnt copers and allum in strong raspberry leaf tea, in which was mixed a small portion of turpentine, or tincture of myrrh, in case the mouth smelt offensive. In case the animal could not eat grass or meal, we gave gruel as a drink or drench in a half gallon, of which we put a little salt and a teaspoonful of saltpetre, first dissolved in a little warm water. The former drench was given but once, and the mouth wash applied once or twice a day, for two or three days, or until the mouth appeared to be well, and the animal returned to its food. We think most cattle that have died, perished for food, rather than from the disease.

Dr. DODD, in his "*American Reformed Cattle Doctor*," says that "*Thrush* and eruptive diseases of the throat, and internal surface, are treated in the same manner as laid down in "*Blaine*." In "*Black*

Tongue," he says, "The indications to be fulfilled are the same as in blaine, but applied with more perseverance." For "Blaine," Dr. D. gives us the following formula:

"Make an infusion of raspberry leaves, to which add a small quantity of borax or alum. Wash the mouth and tongue by means of a sponge. If there are any large prustals, open them with the point of a pen-knife. After cleansing them, sprinkle with powdered bayberry bark or blood-root. Rid the system of morbid matter, by injections and physic."

The following antiseptics will then complete the cure:

"Make a tea of raspberry leaves, by steeping two ounces in a quart of boiling water; when cool, strain and add powdered charcoal, two ounces; bayberry bark, one ounce; honey, two tablespoonfuls. Give a pint every four hours."

For physic, he recommends powdered Maudrake. (May apple?) 1 tablespoonful; cream tarter, 1 do; powdered ginger, 1 do; hot water, 2 quarts. For Clysters, warm water, 3 to 4 quarts; linseed oil, 8 ounces; common salt, 1 tablespoonful, or warm water, 4 quarts; soft soap, 1 gill; fine salt, 1 tablespoonful.

The diet should consist of scalded meal, gruel, boiled turnips, carrots, &c.

SUGAR CORN KILLING CATTLE.

Yes, and so will any other corn, pea vines, clover, &c., if they are allowed to eat enough to over charge the stomach, and bring on what is termed "hove," or "hoven." If this is not the case, we know of no other cause of death, except, as Col. SUMMER says—they may die of joy, on being so well treated. We have fed both green and dry to horses and cattle, and have seen no bad effects from it. We sow some acres broad-cast, cut when in bloom, and cure it as other hay, and we have never fed better fodder to either horse or cow.

The Pendleton Farmers' Society.

At a stated meeting of this very old and almost defunct Society, held on the second Thursday in August. Present, GEO. SEABORN, President; CARVER RANDALE, Secretary; and A. F. LEWIS, member. There not being a quorum present, no business was transacted. Before adjourning, the President asked the Secretary to give him the following record from his books:

At the Anniversary Meeting of the Society, October, 1857, on motion of R. A. MAXWELL, it was *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, who shall revise, correct and add to the last year's premium list of the Society. Whereupon R. A. MAXWELL, Dr. H. C. MILLER, and Col. W. A. HAYNE were appointed.

On motion of Maj. SIMPSON, it was *Resolved*, That the premium list, as soon as completed, be published in the Farmer and Planter.

Three stated meetings have passed, i. e., in January, May and August, and yet the committee have not handed in the revised list, or indeed any list, and hence we conclude, at the Anniversary Meeting, which

is to be held on the second Thursday in October, provided there is public spirit enough left to get up one, we shall be compelled to *again* take up the old premium list, and act on that.

At our last anniversary, we believe, it was resolved to invite the ladies to get up a Pic-Nic dinner at the next anniversary, and a committee was appointed to attend to that business, but we fear it has fared about as has the premium list resolution. We trust, however, that the ladies will carry out the objects of the resolution, whether they have the assistance of the committee or not.

To Correspondents.

J. D. W., under the head, "*Put your foot upon a Weed*," is received, but too late for our September number. Shall be attended to in our next. J. D. W. "would like to know if the weed war is ended yet," to which we answer no, we have not made peace yet, but the weather is so dry and hot, and weeds not growing much in the shade, we are compelled to suspend hostilities for a season at least, before we renew our attack, when, with the aid of J. D. W., and other big guns, we shall expect to demolish our enemies at one broad side.

"*Aikin*."—What has become of "*Aikin*?" Is he determined not to fight unless "in the bush?" "Pendleton" is anxious to have his article published, that he may reply; but if we vary from our rule in one instance, we may be required to do it in others, and hence "*Aikin*" must see the propriety of our course with him, and will, therefore, we hope, conform to the rule.

We have received a communication from our esteemed friend, J. R. S., in answer to G. D. HARMON, Esq., and we greatly regret not having room for it in this number. He says, "Put me down as one of the 20 contributors for a prize Essay," &c. He is also in for a full share in the praiseworthy effort to sustain the Farmer and Planter. Shall appear in our next.

The Seasons and Crops.

Since our last we have heard not much from our own correspondents about crops. We understand from our exchanges, that distressing droughts are prevailing in many portions of the State. In our own immediate neighborhood, we are at this time, (Aug. 16th) suffering from one of the most fatally hot and dry spells, that we have ever experienced. We think our neighbor of the "*Messenger*" hallooed before he was out of the woods, in his issue some two weeks since; and that he may not have to call in the aid of those stills, for disposing of our next corn crop. We have not sown a turnip seed yet—good rains last night in the neighborhood, however, and it may be our time next.

The "*Geological, Mineralogical and AGRICULTURAL Survey* (wonder if it is an Agricultural Survey?) of the State," is progressing rapidly. we presume, having been informed that Prof. LIEBER has recently paid a flying visit to Pickens District, and that he has left, after having examined a few localities of minerals, here.

before discovered, and it may be others. We conclude he is about to make short work of our upper districts, as has been the practice of former surveyors, whose science taught them to judge unamistakingly of the contents of the bowels of the earth, by viewing the surface only. Well, the sooner the "survey" is completed, the better for the State, perhaps; but we would inquire, what *benefit* will the State derive from it? and more especially, what benefit is the *agricultural* portion of the State likely to derive from the yearly appropriation of some three thousand dollars, (we believe) to carry out the objects of the act? If the agricultural interest of the State has, in any degree, up to this time been advanced by the survey, we have at to learn. It may be however, Prof. LIEBER is only blazing his way, and that he will follow and complete his work to the satisfaction of many we hear now complaining. He is said to be fully competent to the performance of the *whole* service he has undertaken, and we doubt not he is so. Had we have known he was in our adjoining district, it would have afforded us much pleasure to have called on and offered him any assistance we were capable of rendering.

That "McCoy" Boar.

We take it back, Col. SUMMER, before you pounce upon our friend for misrepresenting your stock, as he is expecting you to do. The fault was in us and our "devil," and not in Col. C., who had given in the name *Cheshire and Grazier*, instead of McKay, as we recollected it and wrote it, but our imp has gotten up a breed of his own—the "McCoy," and our proof reader, a young man who had been out among the "gals" the night before, was not in very good "plight," as will be evident from several other errors in the same column, and so "let it go a rat."

Accounts.

We had intended to commence sending out our delinquent subscribers' accounts with the September number, but have not yet got them made out. *Such subscribers will please be patient.* It has been thought by many that we intended publishing the names of all delinquents—this is a mistake, we only intend publishing the names of such as *run away* and evade or *refuse* to pay.

Coming in.

An old friend and subscriber writes us: "I have been a constant reader of your excellent paper, the Farmer and Planter, for a number of years, and not without profit. I would not do without it for *five times* the price of it. I will conform to the suggestion of paying two dollars a year instead of one, and if I cannot get subscribers, I will send you the money and have the paper sent to such of my neighbors as I think will become interested in reading it, and may become subscribers." The writer goes on to say that several of his anti-book-farming neighbors "hit" him "hard" for the manner in which he planted a certain

field of corn last year, but when they come to find he had gathered 70 bushels to the acre, from land that, three years ago, would not have produced 10 bushels, they become mute on the subject, and he suspects that several of them would like to read agricultural papers and become book-farmers, if they could do so without its being known. Very likely, we think. We had a brother-in-law, one who was always railing out against book-farming, but he watched the operations of book-farmers very closely, and was one of the first men in the neighborhood to follow their successful experiments, or "hit" them for their failures.

New Advertisements.

Fine Stock.—We direct the attention of such of our readers as may desire to raise fine and good blooded stock, to the advertisement of Mr. J. O. LEWIS, of his fine Filly, and of Mr. GEO. H. WARING, of his superior Devons. Mr. LEWIS has ever been much devoted to good stock—indeed has almost possessed a mania on this subject, and we do not know any gentleman whose judgment we would sooner rely on in choosing a horse, or one who is better posted on the history of the horse.

Persons wishing to supply themselves with the very best breed of Cattle for our country, will do well to loose no time in applying to Mr. WARING. His Cattle have stood the test with the best stock in this State and adjoining States, at our last two Fairs at Columbia, and by turning to the list of premiums awarded, it may be seen how they are appreciated by the Judges.

We also refer to the advertisement of the property of our lately deceased young friend, BAYLIS J. MAXWELL. Here is a rare chance to buy imported and native stock of Jennets and Jacks. Also negroes and other property.

Exchanges.

THE "SOUTHERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL."—This excellent work for August has been received. We have also received a pamphlet containing the Annual Announcement of the Medical College of Georgia—Augusta.—From the report of the Trustees, we learn that the twenty-seventh course of Lectures will commence on the first Monday in November next, with a general introductory by Prof. JOSEPH JONES. In the following remarks by the Trustees, we entirely concur. We never could see the propriety in sending our young men North to study a profession to practice in the South: "For the purpose of furnishing an education for those who expect to practice in a Southern field, where the diseases are so strikingly modified by climate, and the many other influences of locality, the Trustees feel fully warranted in saying that *public opinion* has, for years past, been decidedly in favor of SOUTHERN MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS."

THE PRINTER.—Since our last we have received No. 4 of this handsomely gotten up work, which surpasses anything we have seen of the printer's art. It is just such a work as is greatly needed by the profession, and will doubtless be liberally patronized by them. It is cheap, and should be in every printer's hand. Quarto, 16 pp., monthly, at \$1. single; 6 copies for \$5, &c. Published by HARVEY & HUNTINGTON, New York.

YOUNG'S "SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN."—Number 14 of this work has been received, from which we find that the place of publication is changed from Nashville to Louisville, Ky. The "Spirit of the South" is gotten up on the plan of Porter's Spirit, and is principally devoted to the Turf, Field Sports, Literature, &c., &c. The Central American department is conducted by Mrs. F. LEWILLIN YOUNG, who wields the pen of a fluent and graceful writer.

DEBOW'S REVIEW.—The August number of the most desiringly popular work has come to hand. The first article, "*Exposition of the Facts and Principles involved in the threatened struggle in 1832, between the General Government and the State of South Carolina,*" will be read with a great deal of interest by every old Nullifier, and may bring vividly to his recollection such scenes as he may not desire to again witness.

In the article 2, "*Necessity of Agricultural Reform,*" we have a "*Comparative View of the state of Agriculture in the United States,*" which we shall be pleased to lay before our readers in a future number. Article 7th is a continuation of the "*Early History of Agriculture in Virginia.*" And in the "*Agricultural Department,*" we have *New and important uses of Cotton,* "*Cotton Growing in Africa and the West Indies,*" "*Cotton Planter's Association,*" "*Hog Statistics of the West,*" "*The Cotton Crop,*" "*Wines,*" &c., &c. We had marked an article in the July No. of the Review to appear in this issue, under the head, "*Is National Agriculture Deteriorating?*" but regret to find it has been crowded out.

Sowing Turnip Seed in June and July.

The idea is, doubtless, borrowed from England, our farmers overlooking the important fact that the atmosphere of England is *humid*—which is so essential to quick growth—while our climate is just the opposite, and during these months with us the soil is generally parched, &c. I have experimented for the last two or three years, and I discover by sowing the seed about the 10th of August, in a bed prepared as

for tobacco, and then transplanting the plants as cabbage—about twelve inches apart—about the 1st of September, with the proper cultivation, success is the result. By this method, I have succeeded when others failed, and can produce more on one acre than is generally raised on three. Turnips, to be brought to perfection, require, like any other roots, *work*.

[*Rural New-Yorker.*]

The above taken from one of our Abbeville exchanges, should teach us in the South that we are more at fault in sowing Ruta Bagas in June, the time usually recommended, than are the farmers of New York. We never saw a good or sound, and sweet Ruta Baga in the winter from June sown seed. They grow larger than from later sown seed, but either rot before cold weather sets in, or lose most of their sweetness. Seed sown in all the month of August will insure much sounder and sweeter "Bagas" than those sown earlier. It is commonly recommended, also, to sow the common varieties of turnip in July and August, but our experience teaches us that seed sown in September will make sweeter turnips, though not so large as from seed sown earlier.

With us, turnips should be taken up before Christmas and put in pens or houses, where, if kept dry, they will keep sound, firm and sweet till in the spring of the year. Not one-tenth of the turnips are, that should be, are raised in the South, they constitute a valuable and cheap feed for cattle, sheep, hogs and even horses, as we are informed, though we have never fed the latter on them, but in fattening our hogs and for our milk cows, we use them freely by boiling and thickening with corn and corn and cob meal. To dry cattle and to sheep, we feed them raw, and nothing keeps sheep in better health and condition than when fed with a little corn meal, sprinkled over them after they are cut up—using salt freely at the same time. Of course some hay or fodder must be fed with them.

Col. James M. Crosson.

We are in receipt of "*The Texas Pioneer,*" of the 10th ult., from which we learn that at an agricultural meeting in Freestone County, Texas, Col. James M. Crosson, formerly of Newberry, S. C., "enchanted the entire crowd for some three-fourths of an hour, with an eloquent Address, portraying, in glowing colors, the power of Southern agriculture, and especially showing the influence of the cotton bale upon the prosperity of the world, and proving also, satisfactorily, that the South fed and clothed the balance of the world.

The above we have clipped from one of our exchanges—do not recollect which. Wonder if the Colonel did not derive some of his agricultural knowledge with which he is enchanting the good people of Texas, from the eight volumes of the Farmer and Planter, which he, unfortunately for us, forgot to pay for before he left South Carolina.

Further Suggestions on Mr. Harmon's Proposition.

For the Farmer and Planter.

MAJ. GEO. SEABORN—*Dear Sir:*—I have had some fears as to the success of the proposition to have an essay on the improvement of exhausted land, &c. We are *talking* too long. I hoped that the question would be settled in your July number, but find that it is not. In order to settle the matter at once, I propose, that in case the one hundred or five hundred dollars, as the case may be, should not be made up, that the sum that is *obtained*, be given to the writer of the best essay on the subject referred to.

This proposition will not conflict, to any extent whatever, with the former proposition; but will, if acceded to, insure success. The *amount* of money would be no object. No writer would write merely for the money. His object would be to do good. The above proposition, therefore, will call forth *essays* as good as can be written. But let us make up a good purse, not that we may have a good essay, but to show our interest in agricultural improvement.

Now, if the above meets the approbation of all concerned, the fact is settled that we are to have *essays*, and the writer of the best one is to receive from \$50 to \$500, *and the thanks of one and all*. Send in your communications then. I hope that "Broonsedge, Dr. Philips, Col. Gage, and others, will write.

Yours, &c., G. D. HARMON.

Edwards, Miss., July 1858.

REMARKS ON THE ABOVE.—We regret not having received the above in time for our August number.—There is time enough, however, after its appearance in this month. We believe we have twenty-five dollars pledged. If others intend doing anything, it must be done quickly. Let us hear from them as soon as possible, that we may state the amount in our next.—In the meantime, if writers are willing to contend for the \$25, risking any addition, let them nib their pens and go to work. Communications may be handed in at our State Fair, where they will be laid before competent judges, to decide on their merits, and the successful essay will be published in the December No.

Dr. Calhoun's Letter--Another Suggestion.

* * * *

For the Farmer and Planter.

Enclosed are five dollars, three of which you will apply to the payment of the subscriptions above, for one year, and the balance of two dollars to my credit.

Learning, through the last number, that your patronage will not warrant a continuation

of the Farmer and Planter, and believing that a large majority of your subscribers would sooner pay two dollars a year, than suffer its publication to cease, permit me to suggest to all such, to take an extra copy, to be loaned to non-subscribing friends. In this way the paper would be placed on a permanent footing, while this little additional tax upon subscribers, would, in all probability, last but one year. By taking care to put this extra copy in the hands of such as are capable of appreciating it, I firmly believe that your list would be trippled in the course of the year; for who ever heard of a man of good sense, reading two or three numbers of the Farmer and Planter, and then refusing to become a subscriber. I have, at all events, set the example, in having a copy directed to the first name on the list I send you, and hope that it will be generally resorted to by all at least, who are willing to double the subscription price.

Yours, respectfully, E. R. CALHOUN.

Crops---Application of Patent and Home-made Manures---Effects, &c.

The following letter from a highly intelligent and practical gentleman in the low country will much interest such of our readers as may desire to experiment with KETTLEWELL'S Salts, the Phosphates, Plaster, &c., as compared with home-made manures. We regret we do not receive more of such communications from our subscribers—not as private, and for our eye alone, but with permission to publish for the benefit of our readers—which we are apt to take the responsibility of doing any how, if not expressly forbid. We give the initials of the writer only, as we have no direct permission to publish his letter:

MAJ. SEABORN—*Dear Sir:*—I herewith enclose you one dollar for the 9th vol. I found, on harvesting my oats, that they were so much injured by rust, it was needless to get a new thresher; I have repaired my old one, and it will be good enough for half a crop.

Since the 4th instant, we have had bountiful rains, but it will not be possible to make over half a crop of corn; the stalk is too small to bring a heavy ear. This complaint is general in my neighborhood; young or May planted corn may do better, but we generally plant in April. The cotton crop has improved very much. I hope, with no untoward seasons hereafter, we may realize a fair average product.—

I have made some experiments on cotton this year, with Kettlewell's half and half mixture salts, and am much pleased so far with the result. In rows of 150 feet, with holes made 20 inches apart, I put one quart, dropping a pinch

in each hole, slightly covering with earth, and then dropping the seed. My land is sandy on a clay subsoil, and throughout the dry season it has maintained a fresh, vigorous look, and equal to land manured with good fresh stable manure. Since the rains, however, I think I can see the stable manured cotton goes ahead in growth and development of forms and blossoms. I have tried the Rhode's superphosphate of lime on corn and cotton—the former at 160 pounds to the acre, alongside with land manured with cotton seed. Up to this time I confess that no difference is perceptible; but it must be acknowledged that the drought has been too severe to judge correctly of its benefits. On the cotton, the superphosphate would seem to have been beneficial. It is probable this manure may show its beneficial effects later in the season, when the fruit is arriving to maturity—at all events, I will look for that result theoretically.

The use of gypsum this year has given great satisfaction on my lands. I have come to the conclusion that we have nothing in convenience of application and certainty of effect on a growing cotton crop to equal the plaster; the land on which I have applied it, is light, sandy soil, rested one or two years, and some of it marled. On clay soils, I have not noticed its beneficial effects, and on lands cultivated yearly, even though manured with composts, I have witnessed very little benefit.

I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

J. S. P.

Crops--Seasons--Sore Tongue in Cattle.

A subscriber, in sending up his subscription, writes us from Lawtonville, S. C., under date July 16th, as below. His letter came to hand too late for our August number.

Our cotton crops in this section are as fine as I ever saw them at this season of the year, and with good seasons from now out, heavy crops will be made. The rains have been very partial, and great many corn crops are cut short considerably—on some plantations more than half. Others of us, again, are blessed with very good corn crops.

We are now having a very strange disease among our cattle. Their tongues become sore—in fact the whole mouth seems to be diseased—slobber a great deal, and walk (a great many of them) like a foundered horse. The deer are also effected with the disease. I would be glad to see some conjectures as to the cause, remedy, &c. Some die, and some seem to be recovering. I drench with salt and water, and wash their mouths with blue-stone dissolved in water. Don't know that it does much good.

Very respectfully yours, W. L. W.

Guano--Enquiry, &c.

The following was received just in time to squeeze it in this number. We thank W. B. for his good will:

MR. EDITOR—*Dear Sir*:—I would be very glad to hear from some one or any of your subscribers that have manured cotton or corn with guano, as I want to try it on cotton and corn the next year. I want to know how to apply it, and what quantity to put on cotton or corn per acre or to the hill. Any of your subscribers by answering the above enquiry, will oblige

Yours, very respectfully, W. B.

P. S. I must say, as Mr. G. D. Harmon, of Mississippi, says, the Farmer and Planter *must* live; and if all of the subscribers to the Farmer and Planter will do their part, I can and do feel assured that it, as Mr. H. says, *will* live. I am not much of a hand at electioneering, but I shall try my hand at it this time, to get some subscribers to the Farmer and Planter, and think I can get more than *one* before many weeks, and as soon as I do, you shall hear from

W. B.

Barnwell, S. C., Aug. 10th, 1858.

The following lines, sent us by an old friend, with his yearly contribution, may be taken as a gentle hint to our reculant subscribers, though addressed to our "patrons." The advice is good, whatever may be thought of the poetry.

Maxims and Counsel

TO THE PATRONS OF THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Let not the printer suffer evil,
Although you patronize the devil;*
While he caters for your reading,
See you cater for his feeding.
"Avoid the law, you'll save expense.
And shun much legal impudence;"
For if you lose and then appeal.
This only truth it will reveal,
That Judges with Judges agree
To help out each other in law;
And so they confirm a decree,
Another has passed with a flaw.

GOSSIPING RHYMESTER.

*Printer's devil.

Rust in Oats---What is it?

Throughout the whole Southwestern portion of the Union the oat crop has suffered from a terrible blight, which from its resemblance to the fungous substance that sometimes attacks wheat by that name, has been called *rust*. So far as we are informed, rust in oats has hitherto been unknown. We have never heard or read of anything of the kind in any portion of the country. The fact that it is thus un-

sual, opens a wide and interesting field to the naturalist, and in this case, to the entomologist, as it invites investigation in a channel, so far as we can ascertain, heretofore unexplored.

While in West Tennessee, a short time since, we took occasion to examine the blade of the oat under a microscope (kindly furnished us by the Baily Troupe), and were greatly surprised at the phenomenon which the glass revealed. Since then we have followed up those examinations, by the aid of more powerful instruments at the Medical College in this city, in company with several scientific gentlemen, among whom were Drs. Briggs and Buchanan, of the Medical Faculty.

The cause of all this destruction of the oat crop is a living worm, too small to be plainly seen with the naked eye. A single blade or leaf of the oat sometimes contains hundreds of them. They lie encased in the tissues of the leaf or blade where they have been germinated, beneath the epidermis or thin pellicle over the exterior portion of the blade, and as they progress in development, the skin of the leaf is raised into curious puffy blisters. The growth of the worm subsequently ruptures these, and it escapes to feed on the plant. When first released from their covering, they are of a beautiful, clear, red color, almost transparent, but soon begin to change color and form, getting more opaque and dark in their appearance until, in the course of transformation, they become a black bug, with legs and wings, when they attack the head or grain of the oats.

Under the microscope, the dust which remains on the leaf, closely resembles that on the wings of butterflies.

How this innumerable army of infinitesimal worms originated is yet a mystery. It is a singular fact, however, that where the greatest quantity of rain has fallen, there the oat crop has fared the worst. In our recent trip through West Tennessee, we saw but a single field of oats between the Mississippi and Tennessee rivers, which was not a total failure, or into which it would be folly to put a scythe blade. The field was near Denmark, in Madison county, and was sown very early. It is well known that more rain has fallen in West Tennessee, this season, than in any other part of the State; hence the extreme wet weather must have had some agency in the production of this animal-cule. It is also well known that moisture and heat will increase and multiply animal life. millions per hour, and therein we judge is the secret of this destruction of the oat crop. It is one of those cases of natural phenomena which occur only at a certain stage in the growth of plants, and under peculiar states of temperature and weather. It may happen next season, or it may not occur again for many years.

[*Southern Homestead.*]

From the Charleston Mercury.

Does Chinese Sugar Cane Kill Cattle ?

MR. EDITOR:—I have fed this plant to all kinds of stock for the four past seasons, in every stage of its growth—green, ripe and cured—as fodder. I have found it the best soiling plant I ever raised—horses, mules, sheep, swine,

goats and cattle, rapidly fattening when fed on it. I fed two hundred and fifty bushels of the seed during the past winter to sheep, goats and poultry, and I attach the relative value of oats to it as winter food for these animals. In April last I sowed twenty acres broad-cast in sugar millet, intending it as a pasture for calves and milch cows. On the first of July I turned the milch cows, sheep, goats, calves, swine, and geese, upon it, and have not lost a single animal. They have all improved rapidly, and although I have large numbers on the field, the herbage bids fair to keep ahead of all demands made on it. I made it a point to take my animals from good pastures, and fed them well before turning them in, allowing them plenty of salt. If a half-starved cow is turned on wheat, peas, or Indian corn, she is just as likely to die from over-eating these crops as she is from Chinese Sugar Cane. The disease which kills cattle when over-fed on green food in a hungry state, is termed *Hoove*, the best cure for which is a drench of a pint of salt dissolved in a gallon of water. This will relieve an animal sometimes in a minute. Peas, of all green food, is the most dangerous, from the flatulent nature of the plant. I have frequently seen half a dozen cows die in a few hours after they were turned into a luxuriant pea field in the fall, and as frequently have seen others relieved by the above dose. A cow which, like the asses of Ephraim, had been feeding on the east wind during the winter, and grazed upon the roadsides and bushes, might be expected to die from joy after an over-feed of sugar millet. I have sowed broad-cast at the rate of one and a half bushels of sugar cane seed to the acre, a meadow which I intend to convert into good nutritious hay for winter food. I think more cows will die for the want of this food in our State than from being over-fed on it. I do not think, with the proper precautions, it is in anywise more dangerous than any other green food we are accustomed to feed, and would advise its extended use as a soiling and hay crop in the South.

A. G. SUMNER.

Pomaria, S. C.

The Cattle Disease.

From the Charleston Mercury.

MR. EDITOR:—The cow disease, which prevails to such an alarming extent, assumes two types. Fat stock cattle become stiff, and exhibit all the symptoms of founder. I have seen hundreds afflicted in this way, both in Florida and South Carolina, but have not seen a single animal die when thus attacked. A pound of Epsom salts, given in four gallons of gruel, to which was added a tablespoonful of ground ginger, has always, with me, effected a cure.—Old cows giving milk, and three year olds, are afflicted differently. They have purulent sore mouths, originating, I believe, from the same cause, but acting on the weakest part of the animal. The decayed dentition of old milch cows and the shedding of the front teeth of three year olds render them liable to sore mouths, and it usually in such stock develops itself in febrile attacks. In Florida, all my three year olds in milk had sore mouths and

high fever. I gave them salts and ginger, and made a single application of nitrate of silver (lunar caustic) solution in to the mouth by a rag swab, and they invariably recovered. I did this under the recommendation of an intelligent young physician, and never had to repeat the escharotic treatment a second time. I had several animals so far gone that they would have starved to death in a few days, and these I fed with gruel until they were able to graze, which they invariably did in twenty-four hours after treated with the nitrate of silver. Finding these facts of service to me, I publish them for the benefit of those who may need them.

A. G. SUMNER.

Harmon Proposition--Appeal to South Carolinians.

Since our editorial remarks on the following article we have concluded to set aside an article already up, to make room for it.—ED.

MR. EDITOR:—To the sentiment of your correspondent, G. D. Harmon, Esq., I respond *amen*. Put me down as one of the 20 contributors for a prize Essay "On the renovation of the exhausted lands of the South." My experience in agriculture is limited, and I feel daily the want of information as to the collateral aids to good cropping, especially in agricultural chemistry, and the economical application of labor. And here allow me to say that I have very decided notions of *economy*. I believe in that *system* which promises not only the *largest* but most *permanent* results, without special regard to the first cost. Any improvement in plantation economy must, with me, bear the recommendation of *permanence*, and he will indeed be a public benefactor, who shall not only suggest the most economical methods of renovating exhausted lands, but the cheapest and most practical mode of retaining not only, but of *permanently increasing* the fertility of our lands—of *preventing* that exhaustion which an improvident and slovenly husbandry has entailed upon us. An agricultural journal is the proper medium through which such information should be spread before the public, and it gives me unfeigned pleasure to contribute my mite towards making the Farmer and Planter the medium of such useful information. I trust, therefore, the ablest pens will be engaged in this labor of love, and that your January issue will give us an Essay to which all young farmers and planters may refer, when, like myself, they are in doubt and ignorance. This will, in one sense, be contributing support to your valuable periodical. But, Mr. Editor, (as you can certify) I have always had an eye to your subscription list, as one of the surest means of vitality, and Mr. Harmon, little thought, perhaps, that at the very moment he was inditing his call for a thousand volunteers, I was actually enrolling a draft of new recruits. And by the way, Mr. Editor, you surprise me very much in the assertion that after eight years of toil and industry, your subscription list *within the borders of South Carolina*, reaches only some twelve or fourteen hundred—"at least six hundred being out of the State." Now, I confess to a feeling of curiosity, as well as surprise, and unless some

good, substantial reasons forbid it, I would like to see, in a conspicuous place on your cover, a tabular statement of the number of your subscribers in each district. Such a statement, with the addenda, if you please, of so many *good*, and so many *bad* or *doubtful*, kept constantly before the eyes of your readers, might possibly stimulate to a little district pride or sectional emulation, in the end not prejudicial to the health of the Farmer and Planter.

Agricultural Societies are being multiplied throughout our country, and as an index of thought and study, these combinations are significant. They are buds of promise, flowers that are destined to develop well matured fruit. They should be fostered and cherished as primary schools in the world of science, and with a view to the uprooting of prejudices, of correcting known errors, and substituting facts. Each local Society should lend its influence to the support of some practical agricultural publication. Let each local Society of our State, join shoulder to shoulder, as *agencies* for the support and extension of the Farmer and Planter, and its existence will no longer be sickly and discouraging. Who will charge that it has *not* been "*devoted*" to the legitimate purposes of its creation—Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy—claiming nativity in one of the leading districts of our State—in the very centre of wealth and intelligence—surrounded by the most practical planters and skillful farmers of the age—and with one of the most intelligent, indefatigable and experienced conductors to *press* it through, why should the Farmer and Planter be suffered to fall into a collapse from which it may never be resuscitated?

One thousand additional subscribers, we are told, will meet the difficulties of the case. What say you, friends Harmon and "Broomsedge," to being each one of one hundred to *insure* the 1000 new subscribers for vol. 10—(only ten for each of us). I will answer for Prince George Winyaw. Don't consider this *boastfully* said. We have among us, (be it known to you) an Agricultural Society that has survived 14 summers, and still *lives*, and I count largely upon the material of which this Society is composed.

Our sister district of Williamsburg, I am happy to add, has also organized, recently, an Agricultural Association, which, from a personal acquaintance with some of the moving spirits in the enterprise, I feel well assured, will not fail to plow deep among the roots of ignorance and prejudice. To the *officers* of that association, I submit this my appeal in behalf of the Farmer and Planter, confident that a becoming interest on *their* part, will draw scores of the good farmers of Williamsburg to the rescue.

I have no apology for this obtrusion upon the time and attention of your readers. They may have been much less profitably employed than in the perusal of an article designed to prevent the disgrace which would cover us all as an agricultural people, if the only agricultural journal in the State (at the pitiful price of \$1 per annum) should be allowed to terminate its existence by *starvation*.

J. R. S.

August 10th, 1858.